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H I S T O R Y

OF

# SOUTHBRIDGE

Mass.

BY

Moses Plimpton.



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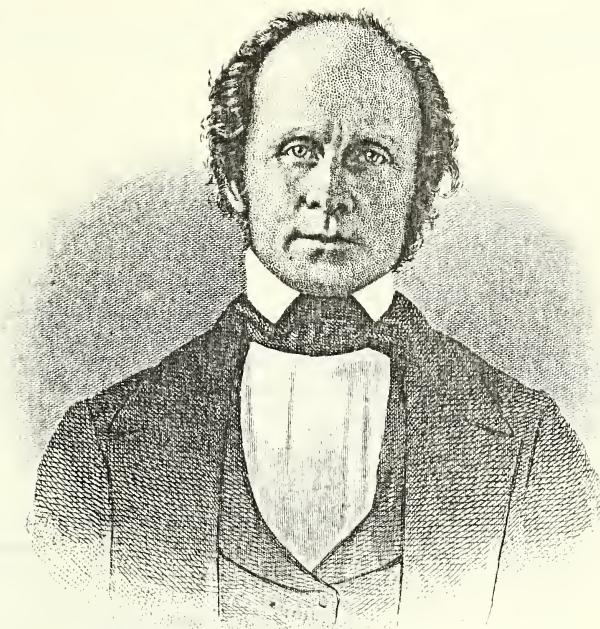
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Appendix : Sketch of Mr. Plimpton, p. 146.

SHLF CDS

1. Southbridge, Mass.--Hist.

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# HISTORY OF SOUTHBRIDGE.

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If anything of an adverse nature could be supposed to mingle with the gratification I have experienced in witnessing the unusual interest which has been manifested by the inhabitants of the town, in attending the lectures of the past winter, it is a consciousness of my inability to discharge in a proper manner the obligation, into which I inadvertently entered. Feeling and acknowledging this, I make no other apology.

It will probably be expected, that, in compliance with the custom established by those who have preceded me, I should announce the subject to which I propose to invite your attention. In doing this, I must take the liberty to say that, if I had succeeded agreeably to my wishes, I would venture to call it a History of Southbridge, but having found it extremely difficult to obtain materials, documents, etc., in relation to that part which would be most interesting to all, I mean the first settlement and early progress of this place towards the state in which we now find it, I prefer that what I may offer this evening should be considered as a historical sketch of the early settlement of our country, with the growth and progress of towns in Massachusetts, intending at the same time to present you with the best result I have, as yet, been able to obtain by inquiries and researches for the history of this town.

It is probably well known to most of those who are present, that the first exist-

ence of Southbridge, as a town, is of recent date. It was incorporated in 1816. The territory of which it is composed was taken from the towns of Sturbridge, Charlton and Dudley and, of course, it is now bounded on the east by the latter town, north by Charlton, west by Sturbridge, and south by Connecticut line, or Woodstock. Considerably more than half of the territory, and of the population was taken from Sturbridge.

It will be seen at once, that so far as ancient history is our object we can refer only to the history of our three parent towns; that is, in relation to all those facts concerning their municipal and other affairs of which they have public records. From these we can get but little information which will apply very definitely to those parts which now compose this town. The greatest difficulty, however, is not here. The public records of any town do not contain those facts and details, those apparently trifling matters, which are suffered to pass unnoticed at the time, but which truly exhibit and illustrate the character, manners and customs of the times, and the state of society, and to which posterity will always look back with the most lively interest.

Had I undertaken this task ten or fifteen years since, there were those in existence who could readily have furnished almost, if not quite, all the information requisite to form a correct and valuable history of



everything material in the transactions of this place from the time the first waunderers penetrated into the wilderness hither, to look out a place for themselves and their offspring. But alas! they have one by one been passing off the stage; and thus we have suffered to be extinguished without using those lights by which we might have taken views of the past, where now all is dark and obscure. It is reflections of this nature, which more than a hope of entertaining an audience, have induced me to call attention to the subject of these remarks, and I would embrace this opportunity to suggest for inquiry, whether there is not generally amongst us, an inexcusable deficiency in a knowledge of history, particularly the history of our own country, I mean that kind of knowledge which is of any considerable value. In all our reading and study, do we not content ourselves with merely skimming the surface, unconscious of the rich treasures which lie beneath and which a minute and careful examination would unfold to our view. There are in history as in everything else two entirely different kinds of knowledge; the one superficial which can have but little impression on the mind, the other philosophical, critical, and which is calculated to impart to the mental qualities of the individual, the true nature of the object or event on which it is exercised. Most of us, no doubt, have some vague and general notions of great leading events which have happened somewhere, at some time, and in which some distinguished persons were concerned, but how few can tell, how few indeed ever inquire, where, when, these events took place, and who were the distinguished actors. How few, in short, trouble themselves about the particulars, places, times, dates, comparisons and connected views of all these.

The ideas which led to these remarks were suggested to me by the discovery of their appropriate application to myself, and which was the first and most important fact I discovered in the course of the investigations I have made on the subject of our history; and it appeared to me so important, that I thought it might be of some use to others.

By way of introduction, I must ask your

attention to a very brief statement, in the order of time, of some of the principal events in the early history of our country, confining these mostly to Massachusetts; and I would urge the importance of attending to the dates of these events.

The first discovery of land, not before known to the eastern nations was made by Columbus in Oct. 1492, (344 years since.) This land was the West India islands near this continent.

The continent was discovered by the same distinguished navigator in Aug. 1498, near the mouth of the river Orinoco in South America.

In June 1497, the island of Newfoundland was discovered by John and Sebastian Cabot, who sailed from England; and in the same year, soon after, these men whose names should be remembered discovered Canada, Nova Scotia, New England, and the southern states.

In 1512, John Ponce de Leon discovered Florida; he was from Spain.

In 1534, James Cartier was sent by the king of France, entered the gulf of Lawrence, and in 1535 he made another voyage and sailed up the river and visited Montreal, which was then the place of resort for all the Indians of Canada.

These discoveries, by the several subjects of Great Britain, France and Spain, laid the foundations of the claims of those nations to the territory, and from these claims arose the wars, which from a short time after the settlement of our country by the English, till about the time of our revolution, at different periods, embroiled the early settlers, and caused great trouble, expense, and loss of lives.

In 1541, the river Mississippi was discovered by Ferdinand de Soto, a Spaniard.

In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh entered Pamlico sound, in North Carolina, and on his return to England the name of Virginia was given to the whole country by Queen Elizabeth.

In 1602, Bartholomew Gosnold discovered the promontory at Cape Cod in Massachusetts.

In 1607, the first permanent settlement was made in North America, at Jamestown in Virginia.

In the year previous, April 10, 1606,



James I, king of England, made a division of what was then called Virginia, into two colonies; both included they extended from the 34th to the 45th degrees of north latitude. The Southern colony he granted by letters patent to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers, and others under the name of the London company. The Northern, called the second colony, he granted to other persons, Thomas Hanham, Raleigh Gilbert, etc., by the name of the Plymouth company, (first grants.)

In 1609, Henry Hudson, an Englishman, in the service of the Dutch East India company discovered Hudson's river and sailed along the coast from Cape Cod to 30 degrees north latitude. This was the foundation of the Dutch claims to this part of the country.

In 1614 (or 1613) the states general, or republic of Holland, granted to certain Dutch merchants a patent for an exclusive right to trade on the Hudson river, and they erected two forts, one at Albany the other at New York. This gave rise to contentions for authority, etc., till 1664, when the country was subdued by England.

In 1619, the first provincial legislation ever held in this country was convened at Jamestown; it consisted of delegates chosen by the people.

In 1614, the celebrated Capt. John Smith who had formerly been sent to Virginia and returned to England, sailed, with two ships to North Virginia, (or N. C.) and ranged the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, making a more minute discovery than had yet been done. He formed a map of the country, which on his return to England he presented to Prince Charles, who, being much pleased with Smith's description, gave it the name of New England.

In 1620, Dec. 22, the company of Puritans, 101 in number landed at Plymouth.

In the same year, Nov. 3, King James I, by letters patent, incorporated the Duke of Lenox and others by the name of the "Council established at Plymouth (England,) in the country of Devon, for planting, ruling, ordering and governing New England in America," and granted to them their successors, etc., all that part of America lying from 40 to 48 degrees north latitude, and extending east and west from

sea to sea. This is the basis of all the patents in New England under which the country was settled. It had before, it will be recollect, been called North Virginia.

In 1603 and 1606, Marten Pring, an English navigator, visited the coast of Maine, and made some discoveries of its rivers and bays. A settlement was attempted in 1607 by the Plymouth company of England, but it did not succeed.

In 1622, Sir Ferdinando Georges and Capt. Mason obtained from the council of Plymouth a grant of the territory lying between the rivers Merrimac and Sagadahok, or Kennebec, and in the next year, 1623, commenced settlements at the mouth of the Pascataqua, and at Dover, which were the first in New Hampshire.

The company which had settled at Plymouth in 1620 had no title when they landed; they had obtained a patent from the South Virginia company and intended to settle near the mouth of the Hudson, but, when in sight of Sandy point, or Cape Malabar, in Chatham, or perhaps having passed on towards New York they were deterred by the dangerous shoals, the breakers and the stormy season from proceeding, and returned round the point of the cape and landed at Plymouth, as before stated. They were soon apprised of the grant to the council of Plymouth, which included the place where they had concluded to settle. They, however, entered into negotiations for the purchase of the lands, and in 1627 obtained a patent for the same, with authority to establish a government.

In 1627, March 19, Sir Henry Rosewell, Sir John Young, Thomas Southeott, John Humphrey, John Endicott and Simon Whetcombe obtained from the council of Plymouth a grant of that part of New England lying three miles south of Charles river and three miles north of Merrimac river. In the next year, March 4, 1628, Charles I, king of England, granted and confirmed the same to the persons before mentioned, and their associates, being twenty others. And in this grant or charter powers of government were given them, by the name of the "Governor and company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England." This was to be the name of



the company, including the persons to whom the grant was now made, "and all such others as shall hereafter be admitted and made free of the company, etc., and they were to have one governor, one deputy governor and eighteen assistants of the same company to be from time to time constituted, elected, and chosen out of the freemen of the said company for the time being, etc., which said officers shall apply themselves to take care for the best disposing and ordering of the general business and affairs of, for, and concerning the said lands, etc., and the plantation thereof, and the government of the people there." The governor, lieutenant governor and assistants were to hold and keep a court or assembly of themselves, for the better ordering and directing of their affairs once a month or oftener; and upon every last Wednesday in Hilary, Easter, Trinity, and Michas terms respectively, they were to hold one great, general and solemn assembly, to be styled and called the four great and general courts. At these great and general courts, "the governor or lieutenant governor, and such of the assistants and freemen of said company as shall be present, or the greater number of them, so assembled, etc., shall have power to choose, nominate and appoint such and so many others as they shall think fit, and that shall be willing to accept the same, to be freemen of said company and body, etc. And on the last Wednesday in Easter term yearly the governor, deputy governor and assistants were to be newly chosen in the said general court by such greater part of the said company as should be present."

Here we have the foundation for a colony in Massachusetts, and the origin of our state government. This last Wednesday in Easter term, was what has ever been our "Election day," until the late alteration of the constitution, and indeed we are not yet disposed to give it up. It is, and probably will for a long time, be regarded as a holiday.

The first settlement under this charter was made in 1628 at Salem, by John Endicott and about 100 others. In the next year Mr. Endicott was appointed governor, being then in the colony, and about 300 others provided with cattle

and other necessaries sailed from England, and arrived at Salem in June 1629, but about 200 of these, not liking the situation of Salem went on to Charlestown.

There had a few years before been some attempts at settlement in other places as Nantasket, Weymouth, Cape Ann, and Mount Wolliston, in Quincy; but they did not succeed.

In the same year in which Endicott and others commenced at Salem, 1628, John Winthrop, Isaac Johnson, Thomas Goffe, Mr. Dndley, Mr. Craddoeke, Sir Richard Saltonstall and others purchased of Rosewell and the company associated with him their rights in the patent. These people spent more than a year in England in making preparations to remove to their new country. At a kind of court helden Oct. 20, 1629, they chose John Winthrop governor, Thomas Dudley deputy governor; and the assistants according to the charter were then chosen, or at some time previous.

In the spring of 1630 the governor, deputy governor, eleven assistants and about 1500 persons of different trades and occupations sailed from England. There were 17 vessels employed in the transportation of this company. Four of the largest cleared the English Channel, and on Saturday, the 12th of July, they came to anchor in the harbor of Salem. On the Thursday of next week the governor and some of his friends went to "the Massachusetts," as it was then called in distinction from Nannkeag or Salem "to find a place for their sitting down," to use the language of the governor. In a few days most of Gov. Winthrop's party removed to the north side of Charles river, where Charlestown is now situated, and where a house had been erected for their accommodation by the Salem people under Endicott. This house, however, could shelter but a small part. Most of them lived in tents and booths. They suffered much from the seury and small pox, diseases contracted during the voyage, and for want of fresh food. A writer who was probably a witness observes: "Almost in every family lamentation, mourning and woe was heard; it would assuredly have moved the most locked up affections to tears, no doubt, had they passed from one



hut to the other, and beheld the piteous case these people were in." The people at Salem were "very destitute, and planting time being past provision was not to be had for money."

Gov. Winthrop at first intended to establish himself and his company about Cambridge, or somewhere on the river;—"but viewing the place, liked that plain neck," now Boston, the object being a suitable place for a capital.

Here, in these events, the arrival of Gov. Winthrop and his company and their "sitting down" at Boston we have the foundation of the settlement of Massachusetts, and, in particular, we here have the first principles of its government. The authority at Salem was soon in this; and in 1691, that of the Colony of Plymouth also.

It was originally the intention of the company which obtained the grant under the name of the "Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England," that the governor, &c., should be chosen in England, but, as if an over-ruling Providence intended here to lay the foundation of that great event which we celebrate on the Fourth of July,—the Independence of America,—on the 28th of July, 1629, the year before Winthrop and his associate left England, Mathew Cradock, who had been chosen governor, but who never came to this country, proposed to the company in England to transfer the government from the company in London to the inhabitants here. The proposition was carried, which, as may be clearly seen by a close attention to the proceedings of the government and people of Massachusetts Bay, was the seed from which sprang "the spirit of '76." From 1684 to 1689 the first contest was had between the people here and the government of Great Britain. Upon the investigations of their enemies, a decision was obtained in the Court of Chancery in England that the colony had forfeited their charter, and that the government was henceforth to be placed in the hands of the king. The people did not willingly submit, and when the governor that was appointed to rule over New England (Edmund Andross) undertook his task, he did not find it a very pleasant business. Instead of giving up their charter on his

demand, the good people of Connecticut, while debating the matter in the evening, in presence of Andros, just blew out their candles, and ran away with their charter and hid it in an oak tree, now standing, called the "charter oak," and in 1689 people of Boston caught this British governor and about 50 of his associates, and imprisoned them. These measures had the effect to obtain a restoration of the charters and a reestablishment of the government in the colonies of New England.

I mention these things because many have the erroneous impression that we were always under the [immediate government of England until the Revolution.

Let us go back then to the little colony which we left establishing themselves at Boston in 1629. Some account of the first proceedings, in matters of government, religion, &c., of those who were here laying the foundation of New England, would be undoubtedly interesting, but must be omitted. I am aware that I have already introduced much that may be considered foreign to the subject to which your expectations have been directed, but I could not but view the connection between the settlement of towns in the interior and the first establishments along our coasts, and particularly that at Boston, as so important that a correct view of the one could not be given without a notice of the others. The towns of Massachusetts were settled under the authority of this "Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England," and the Colony at Plymouth. The character of our ancestors, who settled here may be traced directly back to the characters, manners, customs and institutions of those who commenced at these places. Among those who, from 1630 to 1646, applied "to be made freemen," agreeable to a clause in the charter, which I have mentioned, may be found those of the same name as many of the first settlers here. These applicants were very numerous, and were increasing every year. The towns first settled were near Boston of course. In 1632, about 3 years from the commencement, these towns had multiplied to eight or ten,—Salem, Charlestown, Boston, Watertown, Roxbury, Newton, Dorchester, Sagns, Cambridge, Medford.



In 1634 "those in Newton complained for want of land, especially meadow, and desired leave of court to look out either for enlargement or removal, which was granted. Whereupon, they sent men to see Agawam (Ipswich) and Merrimac, and gave out that they would remove." In this way the population extended, and in 1651 the town of Medfield, in the county of Norfolk, was incorporated.\* At this time the number of towns in Massachusetts had increased to 42. The settlements had not yet, however, extended into the County of Worcester. This was commenced, or rather the first town was incorporated, in 1663. This town was Lancaster. There were probably in this, as in all the other towns, some settlements made many years before the towns were incorporated, it being generally required that there should be about 50 families, or householders, who might, for aught I know, be old bachelors, or at least young men living by themselves, for many of the pioneers in all new settlements are under the necessity of enduring one or more years of "single blessedness," until they can clear away a little and make room and a shelter for some fair one, who will engage as a partner in their toils.

A few of the first towns in the County of Worcester were incorporated in the following order, and it may be remarked generally that the settlements commenced from five to ten years before their corporation:

Lancaster 1653, Mendon 1667, Brookfield 1673, Worcester 1684 †, Oxford, including all of Charlton, 1683, Leicester 1721, Rutland 1713, Sutton 1715, Westboro 1717, Uxbridge 1727, Southborough 1727, Shrewsbury 1727, Lunenburgh 1728, Dudley 1731, Harvard 1732, Grafton 1735, Upton, 1735 Hardwick 1738, Bolton 1738, Sturbridge 1738.

The town of Charlton, as before mentioned, originally belonged to Oxford, but was not settled, or but little, until after the adjacent towns of Sturbridge, Dudley, &c. On account of the proprietors of much of the land in Charlton living in England, or

having sold to those who neglected it, the titles became doubtful, which occasioned loss and difficulty to those who attempted to settle, or made purchases. These circumstances retarded the settlement of the town, and it was not incorporated till 1754. Brimfield was incorporated in 1731, and Woodstock, which formerly belonged to this state, was settled some time previous to Sturbridge, in 1686.

On the 2nd day of April, 1731, the County of Worcester was incorporated, consisting of the following towns and places: Worcester, Lancaster, Westborough, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Leicester, Rutland and Lunenburgh,—all in the County of Middlesex; Mendon, Woodstock, Oxford, Sutton, including Hassanamisco, (Grafton) Uxbridge, and the land lately granted to several petitioners of Medfield (that is, Sturbridge),—all in the County of Suffolk, Brookfield, in the County of Hampshire, and the South town, laid out to the Narragansett soldiers, and all other lands lying within the said townships, with the inhabitants therein, &c., being 14 towns, and two tracts or plantations.

This county, now the "heart of the commonwealth," was, at the time of the incorporation, considered a waste and almost worthless tract of land, and the governor of the colony at that time strenuously opposed its being erected into a county, and stated that it could not probably ever make any figure.

The same ideas more especially were entertained concerning the tract which now forms this town and Sturbridge. It had, at different times from 1723 to 1729, been visited by some of the hardy, industrious and enterprising inhabitants of some of the older towns, with a view to settling here, but the persons in authority, no doubt from motives of true parental regard, discountenanced the projects, and they were abandoned for the time. It was now from 80 to 100 years since the settlement of the lower towns. Land had risen there in value, beyond the means of those young men who were multiplying around and filling up the houses of their fathers. They could not provide themselves with farms; agriculture was the only or principal business; labor was at a very low rate, being

\* Principal proprietors were from Dedham.

† Error. Should be June 14, 1722, Lincoln Hist. Worcester. p. 50. The year (1684) is right.

—M. P. .



but 6 d. old tenor, or about 14 cents per day, in haying time. Under these circumstances and, notwithstanding the report of the first committee, sent from the general court to examine,—that the land was not worth settling,—it seems that a number of persons, principally from the towns of Medfield, Watertown, &c., determined to make a beginning here, in this broken, lilly country near the head of the Quinebaug; and, after obtaining a sufficient number of associates, they made formal application for a grant.

Extracts from the old colony manuscript records:

1725, June 1.—“A petition of several inhabitants of the town of Medfield and other towns within the province, showing that there is a tract of province land lying between the towns of Oxford, Brimfield and Brookfield, and the province line, which is capable of being made into a township, and upon which the petitioners are desirous to settle themselves or their children, and therefore praying a grant of the said land, under such restrictions and regulations as to the court shall seem most proper and reasonable.”

The above petition was referred to the “May Session,” which, of course, must have been the session of May, 1726. At the same time it was “ordered that John Chandler, \* Esq., with two chairmen, under oath, be directed to survey the lands petitioned for at the charge of the province, and return a plat thereof to this court at the said session,” that is, the May session of 1726. In the proceedings of the court at that session I find nothing in relation to this petition, excepting that Mr. Chandler’s account for surveying was presented and ordered to be paid; from which I conclude that the petitioners had abandoned their project, or that they had encountered some obstacle, which induced them to delay it for a while.

June 14, 1728, I find “A petition of sundry inhabitants of the town of Medfield

and others, praying that a tract of land lying, &c., (as described in the first petition) “may be granted to them for a township, the adjacent farm to be added thereto.” What is meant by this “adjacent farm” I have not been able to ascertain, unless it was a tract which is frequently mentioned in some ancient deeds as the “Winthrop farm.” Whether these petitioners were the same who applied in 1725 does not appear, as the records contain no copy of the petition, nor any further mention of the names of the petitioners, a circumstance much to be regretted, as a better knowledge of the projectors of a settlement at this place, could have been obtained from that list of names, than can now be had from any other source.\* Two of these, however, appear in subsequent proceedings of the court.

At this session, June, 1728, the following disposition was made: “In the house of representatives, read and ordered this petition to be referred to the next fall session, and that, in the mean time, Col. Thaxter, Maj. Tileston, and Maj. Chandler be a committee to repair to the lands petitioned for, and described in the written plan, and that they view and well consider the value and circumstances of the said land and report their opinion of what the same may be worth, at said session.” There is no action upon this petition at the “fall session,” probably because the committee had not made their report.

The subject is found, however, again brought up July 4, 1729, as follows.

“A petition of William Ward, Esq., and Joshua Morse, in behalf of themselves and forty others, inhabitants of Medfield, etc., setting forth that whereas, already they have petitioned this court for a grant of land lying between Oxford, Brookfield, Brimfield and the province line the court was pleased to appoint a committee to value the same; that said committee reported their opinion that the said lands are worth 1000 pounds, (probably old tenor, or about 444 dollars) and forasmuch as many of the petitioners are destitute of [illegible]

\* Col. Chandler appears to have been quite an important man, having charge of the military operations of this part of the state in the Indian trouble. See Lincoln’s Hist. Worcester, 51, 52, 53, 58, who afterwards proved a rank tory, and afterwards banished from the state.—E. D. P.

\* At the time this was written the Proprietors’ Records of Sturbridge could not be found. It has since been obtained, with the names of the first 50 proprietors.



(probably settlements) and unable to purchase where land is scarce, and older, therefore praying that this court would encourage the settling this said land, and assign a purchase consideration as in their justice and wisdom they shall judge meet."

In the house of representatives, "read and voted that the prayer of the petition be granted and that the petitioners and their associates, their heirs and assigns, shall have and enjoy the land petitioned for accordingly."

It does not appear that any other consideration was required than complying with certain conditions, which were, that in seven years the applicants were to settle and have actually on the land fifty families, "each to build an house of eighteen feet square at least and to break and bring to fit for plowing, to be well stocked with English grass, seven acres of land, to settle a learned Orthodox minister and lay out to him an house lot equal to the other house lots," and they were not to sell out the lands except to actual settlers. Most of these petitioners probably lived in Medfield and the place was called "New Medfield" \* by the proprietors. Some of them lived in the towns near, which had been settled a few years before. Some of them did not intend to remove hither, but joined in the petition merely to assist in obtaining the grant. These sold out their rights in the whole or a part of these rights, laid out in lots, to such as wished to settle upon them, not being at liberty as before observed, to sell to any except the actual settlers.

As near as I can ascertain, the number of original proprietors was fifty, for I find in searching the old deeds, one in July 1739, from Jonas Gleason of Boston to Moses Marcy one of the first settlers near this village as will be more particularly related, this expression: "All that my certain right of land in Sturbridge being the fiftieth part of said township with all and singular the profits, privileges and liberties whatsoever belonging or anything appertaining unto me, the said Jonas Gleason being one of the petitioners for said town-

ship and therefore an original proprietor."

This right was probably about four or five hundred acres and the consideration 100 pounds current money.

It may be proper here to remark that so far as I have had resource to public records and documents in making up this imperfect sketch, I have necessarily been confined wholly to the town of Sturbridge. Our history in particular for many years in its early part is so identified with that of Sturbridge, and the first settlements in our part of Dudley and Charlton were so few, that the records of those two towns had they been accessible and consulted, would have shed but little light in matters of much importance. I have therefore deemed it sufficient for the purposes of this lecture and as the best and in many particulars the only means of ascertaining the origin and progress of the settlement of this town, to find and follow first the public track or records of the municipal affairs of Sturbridge in their regular course, with the intention to add from tradition or other sources, such matters as will have a more particular application within our own limits.

Let us then in imagination go back about 100 years and behold this place and all around us a wilderness. No sound of an axe had been heard; Quinebaug was almost hidden from view by the tall trees upon its borders, and no footsteps save those of the savage and of the wild beast had disturbed its waters.

At this time, 1729, the petitioners as before stated obtained their grant, and after two or three years the time probably necessary to make proper arrangements in surveying, laying out lots, marking trees, and determining where the right or portion of each was to be located, they began in 1731 and 2 to provide themselves with a good axe, a pack of clothes, a little Indian meal, a pound or two of powder with shot in proportion, a gun and perhaps a pot or kettle. Thus equipped they set out in the spring from old Medfield, Watertown and other towns adjoining to go on foot to visit their new farms and begin "a clearing." No female was to be there to cheer them around the kitchen fire after the toils of the day were ended, or even to cook a

\* It had before been called Dummer, that is Dummer, from Lieut. Gov. Dummer.



johnny cake or make a mess of bean-porridge. The first years these sturdy lads were necessarily their own cooks, their own companions if indeed they were not located so far from each other as to live in solitude.

Leaving some of these incidents of these times for another occasion it may be remarked that such was the state of things, until about 1735, when a few families had been established and these increased from time to time, till 1731, when according to the conditions of their grant as acknowledged to have been fulfilled in the act of incorporation, this little community of New Medfield could number fifty householders, "with each an house of eighteen feet square at least," and seven acres of land broke up and brought to, fit for ploughing.—Act of incorporation, June 24, 1738.

**Note.**—From Proprietors' Records, which could not be found when this was written, but were obtained by Rev. Joseph S. Clark for his "Historical Sketch" of Sturbridge in 1838, the following are the names of the petitioners and grantees of the tract of land: (42.)

Melatiah Bourne, Esq., William Ward, Esq., Ezra Bourn, Shinball Learned, Nathan Fiske,† Henry Fiske,\* Capt. Ebenezer Learned, Nahum Ward, Gershom Keyes, Zerobabel Eager, John Sherman, Joseph Baker, \* Jonas Haughton, Thomas Gleason, Moses Gleason, Jonas Gleason, Joshua Morse,† Joseph Plympton,† Nathaniel Smith,† Solomon Clark,† Timothy Hamant,† William Plympton,§ Ephraim Partridge, Abraham Harding,† Moses Harding,† Josiah Ellis,† Ezra Clarke,† David Ellis, Henry Adams, John Plimpton,† Capt. John Dwight, Capt. Jonathan Boyden,† Capt. Joseph Clark,† Nathaniel Morse,† James Denison, \* Joseph Marsh,† Peter Balch, Samuel Ellis,† Francis Moquet, Ichabud Harding,† Josiah Cheyne,†

Among others, the following were admitted as proprietors soon after the grant. Nehemiah Allen,\* Moses Allen,\* Seth Wight,\* David Morse,\* Moses Marcy,\* David Shumway,\* John Harding,\* Daniel Fiske.\*

\* Actual settlers; † children or others of the name settlers; ‡ father of Henry and Daniel one of "Prince's subscribers"; § probably father of William who went to Sturbridge.

John Plimpton and Daniel Fiske all of Sturbridge, Mass.

Moses Marcy was son of John of Woodstock who d. there in Dec. 1673, "being upwards of sixty years of age," as stated in will, Suffolk county records.

John, was probably a descendent of John of Charlestown, who d. 1641, son of John who d. 1638. (Farmer.)

The children of John, of Woodstock, as named in his will were, John, James, Edward, Benjamin, Joseph,\* Moses, Samuel, Ebenezer, Anne, Sarah and Elizabeth.

† Moses, son of John of Woodstock, had b. in W. five ch. viz.: Dorothy, Jedediah, Martha, Moses and Elijah, (Martha d. Sept. 11, 1736) and near the borders of Oxford, (afterwards Charlton,) and of Sturbridge, all now in Southbridge, six ch., viz.: Prudence, (m. Wm. Plimpton,) Mary, (m. Erasmus Babbit,†) Martha, (m. Gershom Plimpton,) Daniel, Marriam, (m. Gen. Timothy Newell,) Mehitable, (m. Jonathan Newell of Leicester.)

Jedediah, s. of Moses, settled in Dudley and had with others, Jedediah, who m. Ruth Larned of Dudley and settled in Sturbridge at the place of his gr. father.

Moses, now near the centre of Southbridge, Jedediah of Southbridge son of Jedediah of Dudley had b. in S. with others: William, (addition Larned by act of legislature,) b. Dec. 12, 1786, m. Dolly Newell, dr. Capt. Samuel Newell, and Susan Fiske, (dr. of Daniel Fiske) second, and present wife of Gov. Marcy,—Knower, dr. of Benjamin Knower, Esq. of Albany, N. Y.

Wm. L. Marcy was educated at Leicester academy and Brown University, settled in the practice of law at Troy, N. Y., was comptroller, judge of supreme court, Gov., senator in congress, and Sec'y of war.

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\* Probably the "Joseph Marcy" with Capt. Stevens, killed at Charlestown (No. 4 of N. H.) May 24, 1746 in a sally from a fort and conflict with Indians. Hoyt's "Antiquarian Researches" P. 234

† John Marcy of Woodstock was probably a descendant of John M. of Charlestown, who (as in Farmer) d. 1641 and was son of John who d. 1638.

‡ The author fixes the date of birth at about 1700. Mr. Ammidown fixes the date April 18, 1702, Vol. 1 page 31.



\* Doc. Thomas Babbit, son of Erasmus, was a surgeon in the expedition to Algiers under Gen. Eaton in. Two of his sons were Lieuts. in the navy, Fitz Henry and Edward, another D. Oliver was surgeon or assistant.

Erasmus Babbit, another son of Erasmus of Sturbridge was grandfather of Charlotte Cushman the actress.

Gershom Plimpton, ancestors and descendants:

John, from England about 1639, lived first at Roxbury and in Dedham, m. Jane Dunmer, (or similar name) 1643. Freeman and member artillery company 1643, had thirteen ch., four or five b. in Dedham, remainder in Medfield of which he was one of the first proprietors and an inhabitant about 1651. In 1677 in Deerfield, taken captive and burnt at the stake by Indians.

Joseph, s. of John above b. Oct. 7, 1653, Medfield, m. Mary Morse, had in M. four ch., d. 1702.

Joseph, s. of Joseph above b. March 18, 1677, Medfield, m. Priscilla Partridge, had in M. eight ch., d. 1740.

William, s. Joseph above, b. 1700, Medfield, m. Kezia, dr. of John Dwight of Medfield, had b. in M. eight ch., d. about May 1770.

Gershom, † s. of William above, b. Jan. 14, 1733-4, Medfield, went to Sturbridge 1753, m. Martha dr. of Col. Moses Marcy March 2, 1758, had b. in Sturbridge eleven ch., d. Jan. 27, 1808.

Gershom, s. of Gershom above, b. Feb. 18, 1768 in Sturbridge, m. Kezia Fiske, dr. of Dea. Daniel Fiske of S., Oct. 25, 1792, had b. in S. seven ch., d. April 1824.

Moses, s. of Gershom above, b. Oct. 17, 1793, Sturbridge, m. Edna Taylor, Nov. 22, 1821, dr. of John Taylor of Sturbridge, and had b. in Southbridge seven ch.

Daniel Fiske, Sturbridge, (one of first proprietors 1731-2.) Son of Nathan Fiske, Watertown, b. Feb. 9, 1665, m. Sarah

Coolidge. Son of Nathan Fiske, Watertown, b. Oct. 17, 1642, m. Elizabeth. Son of Nathan Fiske, Watertown from England, † 1642, m. Susan. Son of Nathaniel, supposed to have emigrated but name not found in N. E.

S. of Jeffery had a son, Nathaniel who took his family to N. E. S. of Robert son of Richard, m. Sibil Gold, four sons and one daughter,\* lived in time of "Bloody Mary." S. of Richard of Laxfield, Suffolk county, England, about 1500.

[In the manuscript a brace marked England is about the above paragraph.—ED. JOUR.]

At the same general court in which the act of incorporation was granted it was "voted that Moses Marcy, one of the principal inhabitants of a new town erected in the county of Worcester at a plantation called New Medfield, by the name of Sturbridge, be and hereby is fully authorised and empowered to assemble the free holders and other qualified voters there as soon as may be in some convenient place in said town in order for their choosing a town clerk and all other town officers to stand till the anniversary meeting of said town in March next."

Agreeable to this vote the first meeting was called Sept. 18, † at the "public meeting house." The officers chosen were:

Moses Marcy, moderator.  
Daniel Fiske, town clerk.

Daniel Fiske, Moses Marcy, Henry Fiske, selectmen.

Daniel Fiske, treasurer.

Joseph Smith, constable.

Isaac Newell, clerk of the market.

(The necessity for this office will not now be perceived. The office was left vacant after a few meetings.)

Joseph Allen, fence viewer.

Jonathan Perry, John Harding, surveyors of highways.

Joseph Hatch, James Johnson, hogreeves.

According to the custom in modern times these two last named officers must

\* See Savage Gen. Dict. Vol. III, page 447.  
† Gershom, son, and two brothers, William, jr. and Frederick, went from Medfield to Sturbridge soon after the town was incorporated. Also Daniel and James Plimpton from same town of another family but descendants of John P.

The dr. m. —— Bernard, whose dr. m. a Locke and was the mother of John Locke. Mass. His. Society, Vol. 10, third series.

† Daniel Fiske of Cambridge surveyed the town of Worcester, April, 1675. Was he not ancestor to Daniel here mentioned? E. D. P See Hist. Worcester page 11.



have been lately married as a necessary qualification.

In February, 1739, a warrant was issued by the selectmen for the regular annual meeting to be held on the first Monday, 5th of March, "To elect and depute selectmen, constable and other town officers, etc., to furnish Mr. Rice's desk with a cushion, and to agree upon the granting such sum or sums of money as shall be judged needful for the benefit of and defraying all necessary charges arising within said town."

Town officers chosen: Isaac Newell, Town Clerk; Moses Marcy, Isaac Newell, Henry Fiske, Joseph Cheney, Daniel Fiske, Selectmen and Assessors; both offices being associated.

The town did not "furnish Mr. Rice's desk with a cushion." Surveyors of highways chosen at this meeting, Moses Marcy, Joseph Cheney, George Watkins, Edward Foster, John Streeter.

So far as individuals are concerned, my inquiries have been confined mostly to those of the first settlers who resided within the limits of what is now Southbridge. But there are a few individuals who were not within these lines, of whom I may be excused for saying something.

Joseph Smith, the first constable, is said to have been the first person who remained in Sturbridge during a winter. It was the custom of those who first penetrated the wilderness, acting as pioneers in the work of settlement, to return to their native place in the fall and remain there during the winter. This Mr. Smith was the grandfather of the present Benjamin Smith of Sturbridge.

I am not informed where he on Brookfield road made a beginning.

Daniel Fiske and Henry Fiske were the founders of what is called "Fiske Hill." They were originally from Watertown, in this state, and were brothers. Their descendants are very numerous in Sturbridge and in this town. Five of the children of Daniel Fiske were settled in this town, viz., Mrs. Oliver Plimpton, Mrs. Joshua Hardinge, Mrs. Samuel Newell, Mrs. Gershon Plimpton, Jr., and the late Maj. Samuel Fiske.

Mr. Isaac Newell was father of Capt.

Samuel Newell, now of this town. He lived at the place afterwards owned by Gen. Timothy Newell in Sturbridge, near the tan-yard.

In this year, 1739, the subject of roads came up, and the town by vote approved of a road laid out from the meeting-house to Brimfield, and also one from the meeting-house to the south part of the town. And it was voted, April 3rd, that the anniversary town meeting for choosing town officers, etc., shall be on the first Monday in March, which vote established a precedent ever since followed in that town and continued in Southbridge,

It seems that, at that time, there was complaint "that the commons were overstocked with cattle"; and an attempt was made to procure some action of the town to prevent it, but it did not succeed at first.

In new places the making of roads is an important item in the public expenditures, and consequently requires large appropriations. The tax assessed for roads was £200, old tenor, to be paid in work and teams; price 10 shillings for a man and the same for a yoke of oxen.

The other expenses of the town, except the minister tax of 110 pounds, were but little. The town voted to raise 25 pounds, "to be put into the treasury for the town's use."

In Nov., 1739, a special meeting was notified and held "to elect and depute two suitable persons to take care that there be no deer killed in this town, contrary to a late law." In those times it was important that this valuable animal should not be wantonly destroyed; hence the law, and the office of Deer-reeves, to which have since been elected two of the aged citizens, long after the last remaining deer had fallen before the deadly weapon of the huntsman, or had bounded far away in terror at the disappearance of the forest which had given him shelter. The custom of choosing "deer-reeves," was continued, even in this town, until within a few years.

This town, at the special meeting before mentioned, chose Joseph Cheney and Hinsdale Clark to be informed of all breaches of the deer law.

There was some partiality towards the wild animals; Mr. John Streeter received



two pounds for two wild cats' heads, which had their ears formally cut off and burnt, in presence of the constable and one of the selectmen.

In March, 1740, James Dennison was chosen one of the selectmen. He belonged in our limits, and is more particularly noticed in another place.

In Oct., 1740, the subject of a school was brought before the town,—that is, to see whether the town would "come into measures to provide a school," but it was voted in the negative.

I conclude from this that at that time there was no school, although by the following law of the colony, then in force, it seems, if there were fifty house holders in town, they were bound to maintain a school. This law, being the first in this state and probably the second in any state or country, requiring the public to support schools, and being the origin of our admirable system of schools may not be uninteresting in this place. I therefore extract the principal provision: See. 1.—It being one chief project of Satan to keep men from the knowledge of the Scripture as in former times keeping them (the Scriptures) in unknown tongues, so in these latter times, by persuading from the use of tongues, that so at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded and corrupted with false glosses of deceivers;—to the end that learning may not be buried in the graves of our forefathers, in Church and Commonwealth, the Lord assisting our endeavors. It is therefore ordered by this Court and authority thereof:—that every township within this jurisdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the fifty house holders shall then forthwith appoint one within their towns to teach all such children as shall resort to him to write and read, whose wages shall be paid, either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the inhabitants in general, by way of supply, as the major part of those that order the prudentials of the town shall appoint, provided that those who send their children be not oppressed by paying much more than they can have them taught for in other towns." This act was in 1647.

This colony law was substantially re-enacted in 1692 by the government of the

province, with a penalty of ten pounds for neglect, which penalty was increased in 1702 to twenty pounds.

There were other provisions in these laws, with higher penalties, for grammar schools in towns of 100 families, etc.

These laws and the proceedings of towns under them, have been altered and modified from time to time, as the population increased, till they have resulted in the school district system now established.

I mentioned the first proceedings of the town with regard to a school in 1740, in which no provision was made. In March 1742 at the annual meeting, "the question was put, whether the town would grant twenty pounds for schooling of the children in this town, and that the selectmen should dispose of the same for that purpose, and it passed in the affirmative." This, then, was the first effectual step in providing for a town school; and this, as well as all the other proceedings I am relating, had reference to what is now our town, equally with what is left in Sturbridge.

On the 9th of April, after this grant, the selectmen held a meeting at the dwelling house of Daniel Fisk, "to consult how to dispose of the money granted for schooling and they resolved as follows, viz., that the south east part shall have ten pounds, ten shillings, divided between (blank), and the north west part, shall have nine pounds, ten shillings, divided between two schools." I presume the words "two schools" was intended or omitted, in the division of the south east part. This part, which drew ten pounds, ten shillings, must have been partly in this town. The money was paid for female teachers or "woman's schools," as they were called.

It happens, as a source of information which could not otherwise be obtained, that, up to this time, the selectmen recorded their orders on the treasurer at length among the town records. By means of these we are enabled to give the names of the four celebrated school-mistresses who first had the honor of wielding the birch upon the backs of those who were then coming upon the stage.

The first order, Dec. 6, 1742, is to "James Dennison five pounds, five shil-



lings, old tenor, which, (paid) to Margaret Maning, for keeping school at his house the last summer.

By this little scrap we learn many important facts, viz., that the school was in this town; that the school house was no school house at all, the school being at Mr. Dennison's house,\* which was a little east of the dwelling house of the late aged Capt. Ralph Wheelock, now owned by Lovell Morse, and lastly that the name of the school master was Margaret Maning. Blessing and peace to her memory.

The next order, Dec. 21, is to Jeremiah Streeter, £4, 5s, old tenor, for his wife, her keeping school for this town for the last summer." This is less explicit than the other,—but Jeremiah Streeter's wife kept the school, in what place or part of the town I cannot ascertain.

Another order is "to David Shumway, £4, 15s, old tenor, for paying Mary Hoar for keeping school for this town at Joseph Allen's dwelling, etc." This was in the western part of Sturbridge and, as you will observe, was in a dwelling house.

The last order was to John Stacy, £5, 2s, old tenor, for his (probably wife or daughter) her keeping school, etc."

There is a word omitted in this record—probably it was Mr. Stacy's wife. At any rate, her name was Stacy.

From these facts we may conclude very safely that, at this time, there were no school houses, and that the large boys had no time to attend school, or what is more probable, that in the winter the roads were such as not to admit of much travel.

The same sum (£20) was raised and a similar division made in 1744, viz., £9, 10s, to the west part and £10, 10s, to the east part, and this is to be equally divided between two schools in each part.

The town had built a house for public worship in 1733, and on the 29th of Sept., 1736, had settled the Rev. Caleb Rice, as their first pastor. The meeting house, being erected only four years after the first persons began the settlement, must have

been an ordinary one, probably without any pews at first. This will appear, as well as some other important inferences, from the following proceedings at a town meeting, Oct. 14, 1741.

Upon an article "to see whether the town will (lot) out the room in the meeting house under the galleries and come into some measures to do and accomplish the same," it was voted that the persons who might have pews should enjoy them, with their families, etc., and their widows, and after that said pews shall return to the town to be disposed of, etc., the town paying the cost of building the same; from which and other subsequent proceedings it is evident that the pews were to be built and owned by individuals; and a committee was chosen to lot out the room for pews, observing the following instructions: "To have due regard to age, to the first beginning in town,—and to their bearing charges in town,—and to their usefulness, and to dispose of the room for pews to such persons as they shall think fit."

The committee were,—Daniel Fiske, Capt. Moses Marcy and Dea. Isaac Newell. Their duty in this matter was truly a delicate one; no less than to designate the most meritorious man in town,—the second, third and so on down. They undertook the task, however, and were to report at the next March meeting, having about five months to deliberate.

The committee made their report as appointed, stating that they had planned, divided and numbered said room into 18 parts, for 18 pews, etc., and further, "We, the said committee, met on the 9th day of February, 1742, and did agree that, according to the instructions given us by the town, the following persons ought to have the several pew spots and the liberty of pitching in the following order, viz., Moses Marcy 1st, Henry Fiske 2d, Dea. Isaac Newell 3rd, James Dennison 4th, Roland Tailor 5th, Daniel Fiske 6th, Joseph Baker 7th, Joseph Cheney 8th, David Shumway 9th, David Morse 10th, Moses Allen 11th, Joseph Allen 12th, Joseph Smith 13th, Hinsdale Clark 14th, Ezekiel Upham 15th, John Harding 16th, Caleb Harding 17th, Edward Foster 18th.

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\* It was kept in his barn till "haytime," when the barn was wanted for more important matters.



If the light of phrenology had shown at that time it might have discovered in the craniums of two of the committee, Moses Marcy and Isaac Newell, a pretty manifest development of the organ of self-esteem,—being, in their own judgment, No. 1 and 3. The other, Daniel Fiske, was more modest, being put at No. 6; although if the votes of the town had been a test, he was not less deserving than either of the others, having in every year from the commencement up to that time held four offices, selectman, town clerk, treasurer and assessor. Daniel Fiske was probably younger than the others, which was one thing to be taken into consideration.

There is no doubt, however, that had this scale of merit been made by the votes of the town, Moses Marcy would have been placed at the head, and probably the others nearly as they were arranged by the committee, for their report was accepted and ordered to be put on record.

It seems there were only 18 pews; of course a large portion of the people, if they attended meeting, must sit in the galleries, or in seats.

Of these 18, Moses Marcy, James Dennison, Hinsdale Clark, Edward Foster, and perhaps one or two others, resided in the Southbridge part of the town.

There was still complaint that the "commons were overstocked with cattle." At that time, and for many years after, there were few if any fences, except to enclose the little lots that had been "brought to" for tillage and mowing. The cattle were turned in common; and it appears that some were disposed to take advantage of this liberal system by enticing in the cattle of their neighbors from the adjoining towns, for which, no doubt, they secretly got something by way of compensation.

To remedy this kind of connivance at trespass, in March, 1742, it was voted "that when any person be convicted of taking any neat cattle or horses to run on their unimproved land, not fenced, in Sturbridge, from the 1st of May till the 20th of September current, other than their own, or shall salt them with their cattle, or shall suffer them to lie in their yard peaceably, either directly or indirectly, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay into the

proper hawards, or field-drivers, the just sum of twenty shillings for the use of the town."

In 1743 the same sum of £30, old tenor, was raised for "schooling their children this year, and the selectmen to dispose of it for that use, in like manner as they did the year before."

In this year the regulation about cattle feeding on the common land was continued.

In March, 1744, the sum of £40 was granted for schooling to be expended by the selectmen, "one half of it to be for a summer school and the other half for a winter school." There was afterwards a question whether the money for a winter school should be laid out; it was not decided by the town but was probably not laid out, as in March, 1746, a grant of £20 was made as at first; "the school should be kept in four places in the town and chose four men to provide the dames, and Dea. Isaac Newell, John Harding, Hinsdale Clark and Edmund Livirmore were chosen to that service." This is the first step in the improvement of the school system, by the appointment of a school committee or "four men to provide dames." The plan, if not before, has been since adopted and sanctioned by law.

In 1747 £70 was voted "for schooling the children," also that £40 be laid out in the summer season, to be kept in four places, and James Dennison, David Morse, David Shumway and Moses Allen, "be desired to take care and get proper school dames for to keep school." It seems that one out of the four committee men, Mr. Dennison, was in this town, and this was probably about the proportion which the Southbridge part bore to the whole town at that time; and also at the time we were set off in 1816.

The next year, 1748, £50 was raised for schooling, "the selectmen to take care that it be carefully laid out for that purpose."

At the annual meeting for choice of town officers, etc., in March, 1749, the meeting was opened by prayer. This was the first introduction of a custom, a very proper one, which has generally, if not always since been followed in that



town, and Southbridge.

In May, 1749, a special meeting was called, the principal occasion of which was a circumstance which at that time and probably in other towns also, caused great trouble and fearful apprehensions on the part of those who had felt it a duty which could hardly be called in question without approaching to impiety to provide regularly, by tax on all the inhabitants, for the support of their minister. I have not before mentioned it because it was then in all the towns a uniform custom to raise money by tax for this purpose.

At every annual meeting great care had been taken to make suitable provision for Mr. Rice's salary, fire wood, etc. The salary had risen from £110 to £470, 11s, 1p old tenor. In the first years his wood was provided in addition, but this year, with the last named sum he was to find his own wood.

The circumstance which this year interrupted this state of things was, what the authors of the warrant were pleased to call in relation to those to whom it applied, "Separating themselves from the public worship of God on the Lord's day at our meeting house," and the question, a most important one to the people on both sides, to be settled at the special meeting was, "whether the town will pass a vote to exempt those people from paying to the support of Mr. Rice." But it was too difficult a question to be settled at once. The subject was undoubtedly discussed, but no vote was taken.

The school money was increased to £80 to be divided into four parts of the town, and if there was any disagreement in disposing of it, the selectmen were to determine the matter." The same sum was raised the next year under the same regulations.

In March, 1751, the town granted £50 lawful money to Mr. Rice for his salary, equal to \$166.33 or £375 old tenor.

The effect of continuing to the tax "Separatists" as they were at first called, (afterwards Anabaptists and Baptists) was now beginning to be felt. It appears Jonathan Perry refused to pay and probably suffered the collector to take and sell his property, and then had a law suit with

him. In March, 1752, the question was raised, "whether the town will make a grant of money to Jonathan Mason to make satisfaction for his damage he sustained in the law suit with Jonathan Perry, as the said Mason was collector," but "sundry persons brought in a paper, to show their dislike of that article (in the warrant) and it was not acted upon.

At this period, 1752, the currency was changed. The time will not allow an explanation in detail of the different kinds of currency which had been in use, but it will be proper here to state, that, to pay the enormous expenses which Massachusetts (more than all the other states) had incurred in the several wars with the French and Indians in Canada, the government of this province had issued large amounts of paper called "bills of credit," the value of which compared with specie, was as \$7.50 to \$1.00, and this paper or currency is referred to when "old tenor" is mentioned; although I believe the government in 1748, passed an act to redeem these bills of credit at the rate of \$1.33 or eight shillings, for every \$7.50 or 45 shillings, provided the government of Great Britain should pay us, as they had by act of parliament agreed to do for fighting her battles.

The pecuniary matters which are herein after mentioned are to be considered as lawful money or specie, and you will see that the sums raised are apparently very small compared with the former ones in "old tenor."

In 1751, it was £10, 13s, 4p for schools and £15 "for the town's use" and the next year £26, 13s, 4p for both purposes.

In March, 1752, another special meeting was called, "to see whether the town will come into some methods of agreement with the separatists, that were distrained upon for their minister's rates," etc. The meeting was held March 27, Moses Marey, moderator, a place which he always was called to fill when present. I give the proceedings just as they are recorded: The "separatists" was desired to seat themselves in the body of the seats on the men's side, and the others in the seats on the women's side, which they did. The moderator then desired that there might be a friendly conference, and to see if by some means or



other we could not make up the difference between us, without going into the law, and after a long debate the separatists were asked whether, if the creations and all the goods that was taken from them by distress for their minister tax in the year 1751 was returned, would satisfy them so that we might live together like Christian friends and neighbors. They answered it would satisfy them for that year with reasonable satisfaction, and no further. Then they were desired to bring in, in writing, what would content them, which they did accordingly; which was to return from the year 1749, and one from the year 1748 which was John Streeter. It was earnestly requested of the separatists (separates as then expressed) that as we then did, and do now believe we had a good right to do as we did, yet for peace sake that we might meet one another and agree; but this was refused by them. And then it was put to vote, whether the town would return back to the separatists what had been taken from them for two years past, and it passed in the negative. And then the separatists, most of them withdrew and it was put to vote, whether the town would proceed to the choice of a committee to treat further with them, and it passed in the affirmative." The committee were Nath. Walker, James Dennison, Joseph Baker, John Tarbell, and Moses Marey, who were "to make return of their proceedings as soon as may be." A meeting was called soon after to see if the town would give any further instructions to the committee, but none were given. The expenses of the law suit were afterwards paid by the town to Jonathan Mason, being £18, 1s, 8p, lawful money.

March 15, 1753, it was voted to build three school houses, the location, etc., not provided for.

In 1754 the town raised £40 lawful money "to mend the roads with"—"allowing two shillings to each man per day, for a day's work and for a yoke of oxen one shilling, and one shilling for a cart." At the same time, March 4, 1754, the town voted to hire Ichabod Sparrow Paine "to keep school in town" and made a grant of eight pounds (\$26.67) "for schooling the child-

ren." Whether this sum was in addition to the salary of Sparrow Paine, and to pay the "Dames"—or to be the whole for schooling does not appear. This is the first account I can find of any provision for a male teacher or school master, and the first mention that is made of a school house, except in the vote the year before for three to be built, is in the record of a road beginning at the south side of Quinebang river near Dea. Foster's bridge, down the river to the mouth of Hatchet brook, thence to a stump and a heap of stones, thence by the school house, then turning more east through Sargent James Dennison's lane to a stake and heap of stones," etc., by Joshua Hardings land, "to a Woodstock road." This road was from the Westville factory round by the Capt. Wheelock house, etc., and the school house probably the first ever built in Starbridge, certainly the first in this town, was exactly where Cyrus Ammidown now lives. This road was laid out in Feb., 1754, and the school house was probably built the year before. Dennison Wheelock, born in 1753, and now living, is perhaps the only one who can remember attending school at that house.

In December, 1754, provision was made to fence the burying grounds by a stone wall.

In March, 1759, "after some considerable debate about schooling, the question was put whether the town would grant £13, 6s, 8p, lawful money, for winter school and it passed in the affirmative," which is the first provision made for a winter school.

Caleb Rice, the first minister died Sept. 2, 1759, and the town had no settled minister, till the 17th June, 1761, when the Rev. Joshua Paine was ordained as their pastor. In the mean time arrangements were made for a constant supply of preaching. At the town meeting, Feb. 10, 1761, to decide on concurring with the church which had voted to invite Mr. Paine to settle, there were 93 votes given, and all for Mr. Paine. It appears from this that there must have been more than 100 voters in town at that time, a considerable number, about one fifth having withdrawn from that denomination, and according to the usual propor-



tion, between the voters and the whole population, there were seven or eight hundred inhabitants, and perhaps from 150 to 200 in this town including the parts from Charlton and Dudley, in neither of which were many settlements in 1761.

**NOTE.**—Mr. Paine was ordained June 17, 1761. I have reason to believe he was a young unmarried man and quite a popular preacher, and especially interesting to the fair “daines” who attended church. I get these opinions from the following transaction about a year after Mr. Paine was settled, from the records: Then there was a petition from Hannah Allen, Elizabeth Hooker, Rhoda Clark, Dinali Allen, Abigail Mason, Susannah Sollis, Lois Johnson, Mary Mason, Abigail Fay, Elizabeth Allen, Abigail Allen, Deborah Faulkner, Hannah Clumb and Elizabeth Chickering, “showing that the hind seat in the woman’s side gallery is so low that they can not see the minister, and the other seats are full and crowded so that it is very uncomfortable sitting; praying favor of the town that the town would grant them liberty to build a pew where the hind seat is, etc.”

This surely was a grievance not to be borne, after a new young minister was settled, although they had before made no complaint under their former minister.

The prayer of these young ladies (young ladies, no doubt) was granted, and they probably soon raised themselves up in sight of the minister, even so high that he could see them.—M. P.

In March, 1761, a committee “out of every corner,” was chosen to take into consideration the affairs of schools and report to the town.

There were persons in different parts of the town who petitioned to have the money they were assessed for schools, to be laid out among themselves. Some of these were granted and some were refused by the committee; where this privilege was granted as recommended by the committee, it was still reserved for the town to have it under their eye, how the money is expended. In general the committee reported “that each school district should draw out of the treasury as much money as they pay to the school rate,” and this part of the report was adopted.

This was the first step taken, calculated, as it must of necessity, to result in the establishment of regular school districts, with definite limits. At first when there were but few inhabitants it was found ex-

pedient to assign £9, 10s to the North West, and £10, 10s, old tenor, to the South West part of the town, the whole being about equal to \$9.00 in silver. After about twenty years it had arisen to £13, 6s, 8p, lawful money, or about \$44.50 and this it was very evident, could not with anything like convenience be appropriated or used in any one place to support one teacher as the law seemed to have contemplated. The remedy for this difficulty was in making school districts, and this remedy was applied by the people before our lawmakers pointed out the way.

There was a division of the town into five school districts made by a committee appointed for that purpose in Feb. 1764. This committee consisted of the following persons: George Watkins, Daniel Fiske, Ralph Wheelock, James Johnson, Edward Foster, Joseph Cheney, David Morse, David Shumway, Aaron Allen. The report was accepted March 5, 1764. The division was as might be expected, not very explicitly defined but was no doubt well understood by the people at the time.

There was but one district in this town, called the Southerly District. The bounds extended from Charlton line, beyond Mr. John McKinstry’s, by a saw-mill, (then standing where his mill now is, and belonging to Rubin Ellis) to the place now owned by Mr. Leonard, and continuing to near the mills of Jephthah Plimpton; thence south to Woodstock line, including all that was south and east of these lines. The school house was to be east from Sargent Dennison’s gate, about 20 rods, that is 20 rods east of an old house that stood, or now stands, near the Capt. Wheelock house. The reason why this was located there is, that the one which had first been built below was burned down. This then, 72 years ago, must have been the only school house within our limits, unless there was one in the Dudley part, or in or near what is called “the city,” or Ammidown village.

The grant of money after this division and for the year 1764 was “25 pounds lawful money for a winter school, and also 8 pounds for a summer school, to be kept by a woman, for the instruction of little children; said 8 pounds granted with this provi-



so,—that the money belonging to each school district be expended at such place or places in the district as the district shall agree upon, to be left, in order that every part of each district may be profited thereby, as much as may be, in case the districts are agreed; if not, the selectmen to determine the matter.” The proportion or division of money for winter and summer schools established at this time was about the same as is now made in this town, that is, three-fourths for the former and one-fourth for the latter. It was at the same time voted that every school district build their own school house, and that the school houses be devoted to that use for the town; and also “that the school houses be completed and finished, so as to keep school in them by the first of October next.” (1764). These arrangements were probably soon carried into effect; and the only alterations which have since been made in our common school system are the division and increasing the number of school districts, as the population increased, increasing the amount of money raised for schooling, and the appointment of a school committee for each district, and a general superintending committee for the whole town to examine teachers as to their qualifications, direct the kinds of books to be used, and to visit the schools.

I have endeavored thus to trace the various steps taken by our ancestors in providing for the education of their children, particularly as the subject is, in itself, one of great interest, and it also shows, in some measure, the general progress in the state of society in relation to many of its most distinguishing features. The state of things here found to exist at different periods was probably much the same as in other towns in New England of similar age, although it may be presumed that those towns which were settled prior to the close of “King Phillip’s War,” in 1676, could make but little, if any, permanent provision, except in one fortified place, for schools, being in constant danger of attacks from the Indians. When they, these dangers, had ceased, and the remnants of the unfortunate red men had all departed to the West and to Canada, it was the custom to estab-

lish “moving schools,” as they were called and in some towns it was voted “to have a reading, writing and moving school for six months.” From this first plan they proceeded soon to a division of the money, to accommodate different parts of the town at the same season of the year; then to a division of the territory into districts, etc., as we have seen.

These remarks will render any further notice of proceedings in relation to schools unnecessary, except, perhaps, to speak of new districts or subdivisions.

In the year 1765 the government of Great Britain began the system of taxation, which was considered by the colonies as the commencement of a course of measures calculated to make them little better than the slaves of England. The Stamp Act was the first measure which caused alarm, and it created great excitement, particularly in Massachusetts; and this feeling was soon manifested in the action of the people at their public town meetings. In a warrant for a meeting Oct., 1765, a leading article was: “To see if the town will give their representatives some instructions respecting the Stamp Act, coming in force, imposing a tax upon these colonies.” And it was voted to give the following instructions, viz.: “The town looked upon the duty of the Stamp Act to be insupportable, and to instruct their representative to use the utmost of his endeavors, consistent with loyalty, that said Stamp Act may be repealed.”

The instruction here given is stated to be to “their representative”; but I do not find up to this time that any representative had been chosen by the town, nor until May, 1766, when, in pursuance of an article in the warrant for that purpose, “the town made choice of Moses Marey, Esq., to represent them in the great and general court this year.”

It seems that the Lieut. Governor and others had sustained a severe loss, occasioned by a mob, or riot, in Boston, respecting the Stamp Act, and the town voted that the representative should use his endeavor in the general court that the loss of the Lieut. Governor be made up to him, “with as much credit and as little charge



to the provincee as may be," etc.

In 1708 sundry persons petitioned to the town, "requesting they may have the liberty of taking their seats in the meeting house in the front gallery, or where the town shall think proper, in order to carry on the duty of singing with more regularity, decency, and good order."

Previous to this request the singers had, as we may infer, been seated promiscuously among the audience. The town granted the privilege as requested till the next town meeting, and then voted that it "be continued to them during the town's pleasure."

It has probably ever since been the "pleasure" of the town, as well as of other religious assemblies for public worship, to permit the singers to sit by themselves in the front gallery.

In May, 1770, Jeremiah Morse, Ephraim Bacon and others, no doubt finding it very inconvenient to send their children to school at the house near Capt. Wheelock's, petitioned to have the benefit of what money they pay towards the school rate yearly, and the town voted they have the benefit of their money, "meaning all south and southeast of Mr. Seth Hamant's." Seth Hamant then lived a little beyond the brook at the north end of Lebanon Hill, so called.

This division was the first made of the one district, which before embraced nearly the whole of this town and a part of Sturbridge; and it was the foundation of the district and school house near Mr. Freeman Pratt's. The selectmen were still to divide or apportion the school money in the districts as they should think most just, and for the benefit of the districts. District established in March, 1772.

In May, 1771, the town chose Dea. Daniel Fiske to represent them in the general court. There had been none chosen from 1766 to this time. In 1773 the excitement and contest in relation to taxing the Anabaptists, as they were then called, had mostly subsided, and the town voted very liberally to exempt Jonathan Perry and others from the minister rate, notwithstanding their not giving in to the assessors certificates agreeable to law.

In March, 1774, upon the petition of Jeremiah Morse, Henry Pratt, and others,

the town voted, or made a grant of £1, 16s., lawful money, to their school district, in addition to their school money, more than they pay. This vote is perhaps of some importance as a precedent, it being the only instance up to this time in which a district received any more than they paid.

In 1774 the sum raised for schools was £50, lawful money, \$166.67, one-quarter part thereof for a summer woman's school. In this year (1774) the subject of building a new meeting house came up, but it being about the commencement of the great struggle between the colonies and England, which required all the attention and resources of the people, the building of a meeting house was postponed till after the war.

Some of the proceedings of the people as indicated in their public meetings on the subject of the coming contest for independence I think should here be mentioned, although these and some other matters, which might be omitted, will perhaps extend this lecture beyond reasonable limits.

An informal meeting of the inhabitants of the town, upon the request of the selectmen, was held at the meeting house on Monday, the 27th of June, 1774. It may be proper to mention that the selectmen for that year were Dea. Daniel Fiske, Capt. Nathaniel Walker, Ensign James Johnson, Lieut. John Tarbell, Lieut. Samuel Ellis.

The object of the meeting, which was attended "very unanimously," was "to consider of some measure proper to be adopted for the safety and defence of the province in this distressed condition by reason of several late acts of the British Parliament. After solemn prayer to God for direction, proceeded after this manner:

The selectmen to preside in the meeting; Dea. Daniel Fiske, speaker. After considerable debate on adopting some measure for the safety and defence of the province, etc., it appeared to be the mind of the town universally not to purchase any goods which shall be imported from Great Britain after the time stipulated and agreed to; and then, and soon after, generally signed the Worcester covenant, with some small alteration, and universally that and the Berkshire covenant, with some altera-



tion in that." I here give the precise language of the person who kept the record of the meeting, who was Joshua Harding, Sr., then town clerk.

Another meeting was held August 25, 1774, upon a like request of the selectmen. A motion was discussed that, "considering the present alarming situation of our public affairs, by reason of several late acts of the British Parliament, altering the course of justice and annihilating our once free constitution of government, a committee be chosen in each town in the county to meet together at Worcester, or some suitable place, to consult and advise what is necessary and prudent to be done by the inhabitants of this county."

The town was very generally assembled, and it was voted to choose a committee of five, viz., Dea. Moses Wild, Timothy Newell,\* William McKinstry, John Salmon and Benjamin Freeman. Two of these were to meet with the committee of the other towns and make report at an adjourned meeting. At the adjourned meeting the committee laid before the town their proceedings and resolves at the convention at Worcester, which, "being read twice distinctly," were all approved by vote.

Sept. 28th a regular meeting was called by the selectmen to act on various important matters relating to this subject. It was proposed to provide a field-piece, but the town "did not look upon it necessary." It was voted to provide 4 half barrels of powder, 500 pounds of lead and 500 flints, in addition to the town stock of ammunition.

Capt. Erasmus Babbit, Sr., and Mr. Timothy Newell gave the town one-half barrel of powder, for which the town voted them thanks. A committee was chosen to make provisions for the men in this town, in case they should be called away upon any sudden emergency. This committee was Ensign James Johnson, Capt. Joseph Cheney, Lieut. Henry Fiske, Mr. Hinsdale Clark, Capt. Ezekiel Upham, Mr. Stephen Grould, and Mr. John Marsh. It was also voted, "by a great majority," to pay the men, in case they should suddenly be

called away.

Capt. Timothy Parker was chosen a delegate to the Provincial Congress, to be convened at Concord, the second Tuesday of Oct., 1774.

There was a province tax laid upon the towns, the payment of which was probably to be voluntary, if at all, it being out of the regular course of proceedings.

The town, at a meeting Nov. 17, 1774, voted unanimously that the constables of the town pay the province tax to Henry Gardner, Esq., of Stow, and that his receipt thereof should ever thereafter operate as an effectual discharge.

Capt. Ralph Wheelock, Dea. Daniel Fiske, Mr. Aaron Allen, Mr. Aaron Weld, and Lieut. John Tarbell were chosen a committee to inspect the buying, selling and consuming East India teas. Two half barrels of powder and 300 pounds of lead was added to the stock of ammunition; and the Rev. Joshua Paine gave one half barrel of powder and Lieut. Henry Fiske 100 pounds of lead, for which the town voted their acknowledgment of the favors.

It was then proposed that all men in town of 16 years old and upwards meet at Meeting house on the first Monday of December, 1774, at 10 o'clock in the morning, with arms and ammunition, in order for viewing.

On the day appointed, to which time the town meeting had been adjourned, the town "very generally met on the training field," (the common was then called a training field) "and having formed themselves into proper order, the companies of foot, the minute men, the troop—all belonging in town, the company of alarm men,—all marched into the meeting house in good order, having fixed themselves together, there being silence and good order. After solemn prayer to God and singing, the Rev. Mr. Paine preached a sermon from psalms (blank). Arrangements were then made to see that all the different companies were duly equipped, a committee, consisting of the selectmen and Capt. Joseph Cheney and Lieut. Henry Fiske, being chosen for that purpose.

A committee of one in each school district was chosen to obtain the signature of every individual in town to an instrument

\*Marcy, afterward Gov. Mem. of Gov. coun. council, etc.



binding them to a strict observance of the rules of the Continental Congress,—in particular that part called the association.

Upon the report of a committee as to delinquents in arms and ammunition, the town voted "that it is the sense of this town that every man in town able to furnish themselves with arms and ammunition do forthwith fix themselves complete, and be it further recommended by the town, in the strongest terms, to all in town unprepared to defend our just rights and privileges and all that is dear to us, in this time of great danger and distress, to exert themselves to the utmost, to be prepared immediately."

In March, 1775, the school district in this town was again divided by establishing what is now the centre district. The bounds were "so far west as to take Jonathan Perry (now called the Nathan Hard-ing place) and thence over the river, about southwest, to include Zeeb Clark; from thence, about southeast, to include the land of Benjamin and David Dix (late Ephraim Wheelock's) and Ichabod Robbing (now Moses Mason's), and thence south to Woodstock line," on the southeast, bounded of course by the Pratt district. The spot for the school house to be on land of Col. Marcy, west of the road, about 20 rods south of Benjamin Freeman's house, "where the school house now stands." This place was near where the house of Dr. Jenks stands, and it seems that a school house had been built before the division was authorized by the town. The spot for the other school house was "on the road leading from John Marsh's (now Grosvenor Marsh's) to the meeting house on Ensign Ellis's land, where the school house now stands," that is, at the time of their location, which was probably the same place where the present house is located.

From 1774 to 1784 a change had taken place in the affairs of this country, perhaps unequalled in importance in the political history of the world. Prior to the first mentioned period, all our warrants for town meetings commenced with the imposing authority of,—"In his Majesty's name," etc., and generally ended with a double reference to the year of our Lord and the "year of his Majesty's reign." It

was not so now. We had nothing with "his Majesty," and instead of his name, our precepts were to be served, "In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Besides the natural consequence of the Revolution, which, throughout our whole country, produced a new state of things, a new tone of thought and feeling, in every individual left upon the stage;—a great change had taken place among our inhabitants. Many of the "fathers of the town," were no longer there, or had ceased to be actors in public life. Another generation had come on, and we find in 1784, Joshua Harding, Jr., town clerk; Benjamin Freeman, Henry Fiske Jr., etc., selectmen; and, in general, the sons of the first inhabitants, or others of similar age, who had moved into town, were the persons in active life.

It will be recollected that the subject of a new meeting house came up in 1774, and was then postponed. It was again brought up before the town, in different ways and at different times in 1783 and 4; and I should think, from the general nature of the proceedings, that the inhabitants living in this part of the town were opposed to building. There were several close votes on the subject,—sometimes for and then against, raising money for that purpose. And I infer from this that even at that time the minds of the people in this section had been led to contemplate the prospect of having a meeting house, and at least a parish in this part of the town.

A building committee had been chosen, and while the work of erecting and finishing the meeting house was going on, embarrassments were thrown in the way as to providing the necessary funds, or paying the expenses they had incurred. On a question whether 300 pounds, which had once been granted and the vote reconsidered, should be immediately assessed, the vote was, affirmative, 32; negative, 28; and immediately after a number of persons, among whom were Capt. Ralph Wheelock, Mr. John Marsh, etc., remonstrated against the votes which had been passed, on account of illegality as to the place of posting up warrants. This was in Sept., 1784. In the next year there was a petition of per-



sons living near Brookfield, and probably joined by others in this part, to have the town divided into three districts, or precincts, but it was voted against "by a great majority."

The meeting house, however, was finished in 1785; or early in the next year, and the same year the Baptist meeting house on Fisk's Hill was erected.

In June, 1786, a committee, which had been appointed for that purpose, by a report, which was accepted, numbered all the school districts in the town, affixing to each number the name of some person living near the school house. There were eleven districts, three of which were in this town, viz.: Southbridge—No. 4, Ralph Wheelock; 10, Henry Pratt; 5, Benjamin Freeman. Sturbridge—No. 3, Capt. Timothy Parker; 1, Ebenezer Craft, Esq.; 2, Stephen Harding; 6, Abijah Shumway; 7, Dea. Jonathan Phillips; 8, Silas Child; 9, John Salmon; 11, Capt. Henry Clark.

When the present meeting house in Sturbridge was first built, there was no steeple. The steeple was authorized to be added in January, 1794, and probably erected the same year.

In May, 1793, the first regular school district committee were chosen,—three in each district, and in 1796 they were reduced to one in each district.

It seems that what is now the southeast part of this town was formerly considered a part of Woodstock, or a gore of land not belonging to either town, for in April, 1794, on the petition of Ezekiel Brown, Joseph Ammidown, Cyrus Ammidown, Benjamin Stoddart, Ephraim Bacon and Jeremiah Morse, they, with their lands, were received as inhabitants of the town.

In May, 1796, the first persons were chosen, one in each school district, to regulate funerals. This is an office not provided for by any law, but a very proper and even necessary one.

The views of those who first introduced these committees may be learned from the following regulations to be observed by the funeral committees, which were adopted by the town in Nov., 1796, having been reported by a committee, of which Joshua Harding, Jr., was chairman: 1st—The committee shall be punctual in attending

upon all funerals within their respective districts, during the term of their appointment. 2nd—During the customary exercises of funerals the committee shall see that the minister, or the mourners, are not uncomfortably thronged, and the same attention to be paid to the mourners on their taking leave of the corpse. 3rd—The relations of the deceased, having nominated the bearers to the committee, they shall notify and collect them together, when needed. 4th—After funeral exercises are over the committee to see that no time be unnecessarily lost in conveying the corpse to the burying ground and interring the same. 5th—The committee may caution the attendants on funerals in standing too long over the corpse of those who have died of contagious or infectious diseases that they may not expose themselves to the same disorder. 6th—The committee to pay particular attention to the order and decency of the procession moving into the burying ground to the grave, and likewise in returning from the same. In fine, the committee may attend to all matters and things that may respect the decency of funerals, or may in any way alleviate the distresses of the afflicted mourners.

After the erection of the meeting house of Fisk's Hill, but very few of the inhabitants of this town, especially those at the east and southeast parts, attended meeting in the centre house in Sturbridge. Many had joined the Baptist society, or occasionally attended meeting there. The distance which some had to travel to attend church and to transact town business was more than seven miles. This state of things, besides the great inconvenience it must occasion to those who wished regularly to attend and maintain public worship upon the Sabbath, undoubtedly had a tendency to prevent many from attending meeting at all, or but few times in the year, a circumstance which could not be favorable to the character and morals of society. It could hardly be expected that the affairs of a community thus situated and having among its principal numbers those who felt the importance of a general attendance upon public worship on the Sabbath, should so remain for any considerable time. The southwest part of Charlton and the west



part of Dudley were in some degree laboring under similar disadvantages. It was natural then that a remedy should be sought by a reparation and the establishment of a new town, or at least by providing some more convenient place for public worship.

The first attempts were for a town. In Nov., 1796, Joshua Harding, Jr., and others petitioned the town of Sturbridge to be set off with a part of Charlton and Dudley as a town. Upon an article in the warrant to hear the report of the committee appointed to confer on the subject, it was "voted that this article subside,"—a very modest and easy way to let it down.

A similar petition of Daniel Morse and others was rejected, and in 1798 Joshua Harding and others again petitioned for a town, that is, that the town of Sturbridge would assent to the formation of a new town, but they refused.

As late as 1799 there was a bounty of \$1.50 on wild cats.

In this year, 1799, the school house by Joseph Clark's was burnt, and the town granted 33 dollars towards rebuilding.

In 1800, Ralph Wheelock and others again petitioned for the assent of Sturbridge to be set off as a town. The vote was 53 for and 96 against the petition.

The Rev. Mr. Paine died in 1799, and Rev. Otis Lane was ordained Dec. 10, 1800.

In the arrangement of ecclesiastical matters, ordination of the minister, etc., the inhabitants of this part of the town had no part, being left out in the appointment of all committees, etc., probably at their own request.

Having failed in the project of being set off as a town, application was made in 1800 to the general court for the incorporation of a parish, and this was granted, as will be more particularly mentioned. This project was also opposed by a majority of the voters of Sturbridge, the votes being at one time 39 to 48, and at a special meeting to see if the town would reconsider, the votes were—in favor of reconsidering, 71; against, 98; and in the same year, 1801, the town of Sturbridge again voted not to abate the minister taxes of those in this part who requested it.

I have thus noticed as briefly as I could in pursuing the course upon which I at first set out those transactions of a public nature in which this place was connected with the town of Sturbridge. I shall here leave that town as a corporation, and in the remainder of public matters to be mentioned and others principally, confine myself within our own limits.

At the time when the first application was made on the subject of a new town, viz., in 1796, meetings had been held here from time to time to adopt such measures as appeared necessary. At one of these a committee was appointed, consisting of Oliver Plimpton, David Morse, Joshua Harding, Jr., Asa Walker, Luther Ammidown, Ebenezer Putney, Jr., and Janus Dyer, to whom was referred the subject of forming a new town and who were to report thereon. This report, which I discovered by accident among old files of papers, which will probably soon be lost or destroyed, is so valuable a document that I have determined by transcribing to preserve it, and although I am already aware of the unreasonable length to which this sketch may be extended I cannot well omit that report, which is as follows: "The committee to whom was referred the subject of forming a number of the inhabitants of the southeast part of Sturbridge, southwest part of Charlton and west part of Dudley, into a town, have attended that service and beg leave to report as follows, viz.: The first article of instructions to your committee was, to report the most convenient spot for a meeting house. In the public opinion, three particular spots have been referred to, at a very moderate distance from each other. Your committee having paid particular attention to each of them, are unanimous in their opinion that the central, which is a rising ground on Capt. Marey's land, north of Col. Freeman's barn (then standing on the other side of the road opposite to the place now occupied by the meeting house) concentrates convenience, elegance and beauty,

The second article of instruction to your committee was, to report the principles on which said house is to be built. As it is natural to expect that in a class of citizens



so numerous as is comprised in the proposed new town, there will be different sentiments in regard to modes of religious worship, this part therefore of your committee's instructions forms the most arduous and difficult task. But, as a liberal and conciliatory plan appears to be the general wish, your committee propose the following: That a subscription be opened to raise a sum sufficient to erect a frame and belfry for a meeting house and complete the outside, and that the pews be sold at public vendue to complete the inside; that every denomination be equally privileged in said house, according to their interest therein, this clause however not to be constructed so as to operate against the major part governing, but to confirm the free use of said house to the minority, when the majority are not improving the same.

Your committee foresee with concern that the liberality of this plan will be objected to by many respected characters as having a tendency to deprive the town of a stated, settled, orthodox ministry, to which objection your committee beg leave to make the following observations:

1st. The difference in sentiment betwixt the Congregationalists and Baptists is principally confined to the administration of the ordinance of Baptism, a very immaterial difference indeed. Were both parties seriously to reflect, that religion consists in purity of heart, and give no more weight and consideration to modes and forms of worship than they really deserve; and if a minister should be settled disposed to administer that ordinance in the manner most agreeable to that wished for period, when both parties might be happily united in one society.

2nd. That every denomination being equally privileged in said house, according to their interest, will have a material tendency to unite and cement themselves together in one society.

3d. That there are comprised in the proposed town as large a number, and reputable both as to character and interest, as new towns are generally composed of, (and) it would be ungenerous to say they were not as well disposed towards supporting the gospel.

The third article of instructions to your

committee was to ascertain the bounds of said town.

Your committee propose the following: Beginning at the South East corner, on the state line, to include James Haskell, Benjamin Stone, Thomas Cheney, Lieut. Eleazer Putney, Eliakim Chamberlain, Jesse Merrit, Paul Rick, Asa Dresser, Alexander Brown, John Chub, Joseph and William McKinstry, Jonathan Perry, to the river; thence include John Plimpton, Capt. Elias Plimpton, Fletcher Foster, Capt. Samuel Ellis, Jedediah Ellis, Simeon Mason, and Chester May, to the state line. But as an actual survey will be necessary, before an act of incorporation can be applied for, your committee are of opinion to refer minute circumstances respecting boundaries to that period.

The 4th article of instruction to your committee was, to report a plan of the meeting house, which will accompany this report.

The 5th article of instruction to your committee was, to see what number of persons will come forward to build said house. Although your committee, as yet are not well enough informed to detail the particular disposition of every person, yet from what information your committee have already obtained, the disposition of the people appears to be very general in favor of the plan. Your committee propose to bring forward subscription papers at the present meeting, which will give that point its fairest decision; and all moneys, either by subscription or sales of pews, to be considered as binding, whenever an act of incorporation takes place, otherwise to be void and of no effect.

Your committee, in closing this report, are disposed to present to your view, the geographical situation of the proposed town. The great parent of nature seems to have been profuse in his favors to this place. The Quinebaug river, which falls so nearly central through, with its excellent seats for mills and other water works, are circumstances highly favorable to the introduction of useful mechanics, and rendering it a place of activity and business. The goodness of the soil, with the excellent forests abounding with all kinds of timber for building, are estimates of great conse-



quence to the general plan.

Abstractly considered from the value it will add to the real estate, if we take into view the benefits that would naturally result from a religious society, where there are so large a number of youths, in forming their minds for accomplishments, usefulness, and virtue, when they are at present by reason of local situation notoriously neglected, are, in the opinion of your committee considerations of so much weight, that (they) ought to bear down obstacles that present themselves in the way of the accomplishment of an object, so noble, so great, and so good. From every view of the subject, your committee recommend, with steadiness, energy and vigor, to take the most effectual measures to carry into complete effect an object of so much consequence, as soon as time, and other circumstances will admit." (Report made Feb. 29, 1796.)

This report was signed by the whole committee and undoubtedly expressed their views and feelings, but it is due to one of them to state, that it was from the pen of Joshua Harding, who was usually required to draft instruments of this kind; and it will perhaps be sufficient commendation of the report and of its author to say, that it deserves sound judgment and ability, and in particular, that the candid and liberal views, and high moral tone which pervade it throughout, were literally but specimens of his pure and benevolent mind.

It will be perceived that at this time all were looking to the immediate formation of a new town, and that the establishment of a parish was not contemplated, and it is not improbable had they known, as it turned out, that they should not succeed on account of the opposition in Sturbridge, all further proceedings on the subject of a meeting house, etc., would have ceased, or at least would have been suspended for several years. The people however, agreeable to the plan and recommendations of the committee immediately made arrangements for building a meeting house, and at the same time, and subsequently as has before been stated, made applications to Sturbridge all of which were opposed and rejected. The house was to be built by subscriptions as far as they could be ob-

tained, and the inside, pews, etc., to be furnished in such manner, and by such means as circumstances might suggest. Most of the persons, probably all who were to be interested in the meeting house agreed to furnish certain articles of provision for the raising, such as bread, pork, veal, mutton, beef, butter, cheese, potatoes, beets, beer, cider, etc., etc. The meeting house was raised under the direction of William Love, July 4, 1797, (and this is the first event to which my memory extends, being then about four years old.)

The house was not finished for several years. The first meeting for public worship was April 6, 1800. The preacher was Rev. Alvyn Underwood of Woodstock, but the house was not then finished, and I think there were no pews, or at least I remember that there were some loose seats of boards, etc., used. It was dedicated July 4, 1800, and of course was then finished or ought to have been.

Every place, person, or thing, of sufficient consequence to attract attention, to be thought of, or talked about must have a name, particular, and special, as a means of distinction in the class of species to which it belongs, and if those whose right and duty it is, do not see to it, and apply some distinctive appellation, others will do it for them. How long will your inquisitive neighbors suffer your infant to be called "baby"? Not long enough for you to determine which of your ancestors, uncles, cousins, or friends was most worthy to have his or her name transplanted into your family.

So in relation to this place, we had determined to be, and become a separate distinct community, neither Sturbridge, Charlton, or Dudley. We had built a meeting house, made calculations for public worship by ourselves, applied for incorporation as a parish, etc., but in all these matters had forgotten to give ourselves a name. We could not conveniently, or rather properly be East Parish, West Parish, or South Parish, because either of those appellations would only apply to one of the three towns to which we belonged. In this state of things, and from the necessity of the case some person, or persons, (and it will probably never be known who)



gave us a name, and that was Honest town. It may have been attached to us by some one in the old towns from which we had separated in a moment of resentment at our obstinacy, in not being satisfied to go some miles to meeting, it may have come from some wag or bar room joker over his mug of flip, or possibly from some one of our own, really honest inhabitants who firmly believed that there was more true genuine honesty here, than in any other place in this part of the country. Be all these things as they may, it is certain that this place, now Southbridge, for twenty years or more, before we became a town was known far and near by the name of Honest town, and whether the term was applied ironically, or in "sober earnest," or whether the character of our inhabitants for fair dealing between man and man rose above or fell below the common standard, the truth would probably require us to admit that from "local situation," to use the charitable expression of the amiable author of the report which I have introduced, or from some other cause there was a general want of stability, a kind of freedom from wholesome restraint, which was by no means favorable to the cause of good morals, virtue, and religion, and the effects of this state of things are yet, in some measure, visible.

The Poll Parish (alias Honest town.) In the year 1801, certain persons having petitioned therefor, an act was passed, "setting off a number of the inhabitants of the south east part of Sturbridge, the south west part of Charlton, and the west part of Dudley into a poll parish for the purpose of a religious society." The preamble of the act, containing the reason for the same is as follows: "Whereas, for the convenience and satisfaction of a number of the inhabitants of the towns of Sturbridge, Charlton, and Dudley in the county of Worcester, with respect to their attending public worship it is found necessary to set them off, and erect them into a poll parish."

The persons thus set off, and who constituted the parish with the estates which they then had or might thereafter possess were: Ralph Wheelock, Abel Mason, Joshua Harding, Benjamin Freeman, Jedediah Marey, Oliver Plimpton, John Ammidown,

Luther Ammidown, Gershom Plimpton, Joseph Shaw, Robert Edwards, Calvin Ammidown, Jephthah Clark, Jeremiah Shunway, Oliver Hooker, Eleazer Putney, jr., Solomon Clark, Daniel Morse, jr., Calvin Perry, Moses Clark, Asa Walker, David Dix, Henry Pratt, Jason Morse, jr., Lemuel Mason, Moses Mason, John Marsh, Samuel Newell, James Dyer, Joseph Sabin, Eleazer Putney, Jedediah Ellis, Israel Marsh, Jonathan Mason, Zebina Abbott, Elias Plimpton, Duty Marsh, Dennis Wheelock, Gershom Plimpton, jr., Nathan Brown, John Holbrook, Ephraim Wheelock, William Love, Asa Morse, Jonathan Perry, Oliver Thayer, Ralph Harding, Abesha Sabin, John Plimpton, Thomas Cheney, Jesse Morse, Pearley Stone, John Mason, Moses Marey, Edward Morris, Theodore Marey, Joseph Barrett, Ephraim Bacon, Enoch Bacon, Cyrus Ammidown, Ralph Vinton, Jonathan Perry second, Ruggles Morse, William Blood, Charles Dugan, jr., David Clemons, Alexander Brown, Rufus Brown, Gload Dugan, Charles Dugan, John Heath, Ebenezer Clarke, John Wait, Nathaniel Searle, Joseph Barrett, jr., Daniel Morse, Alpheus Morse, Jeremiah Morse, Freeman Pratt, James Wheelock, John Marcy, Abel Mason, jr., Samuel Wetherly, Abisha Hooker, Fletcher Foster, Moses Wheelock, Calvin Wheelock, Moses Foster, Samuel Robbins, Jacob Mason.

In 1787, December 3, Capt. Timothy Parker was chosen a delegate to the convention in Boston, to be held second Wednesday in January to consider the reported constitution of the United States.

In 1788, April 7, highway districts were first established with limits, the roads having before been under the superintendance of the surveyors acting together.

Joshua Harding, jr., was chosen representative in 1787 and 1788, and Josiah Walker from 1789 to 1797.

May 10, 1790, upon a petition of Roland Clark, and others to be set off as a separate school district from the districts No. 5 and 10, a committee reported that there were a number of the inhabitants who received but little benefit of schools, and that a small district of about ten families, and thirty scholars might be made, which



would have four weeks' school in winter, and three in summer, etc., and the report was accepted. This was the fourth and last district established in this town before it was incorporated, being the district by Mr. Joseph Clarke.

In May 1791, Daniel Morse and others were exempted from the payment of minister tax, for two years.

Until 1791, the school houses had been built by subscription, or voluntary contribution, but in this year, May 12, upon the report of a committee it was voted to build and repair school houses by a tax, and in 1792 £800 was raised for that purpose, and £110 for support of schools.

In May, 1792, Col. Benjamin Freeman and others who lived south of the road leading from Col. Freeman's house to Dudley, being within the limits of Charlton, petitioned the town to be received as inhabitants of Sturbridge, and the petition was granted. How this action of the town could answer the purpose I do not know, but there was probably a law to sanction the proceeding, for it is true that Col. Freeman and some others on the south side of the road did not attend town meetings, etc., in Sturbridge, although others in this village living where the Dresser brick store is, and near the Marey mills were required to go to Charlton.

In 1793, inoculation for the small pox was authorized at John Plimpton's, Simon Mason's and Joseph Shaw's.

The foregoing list contains ninety names which was probably all, or nearly all the legal voters within the limits of the parish. Strictly speaking the parish had no limit, but was composed of certain persons who saw fit to join in the request to be incorporated, but their residence was mostly within the bounds of what is now the town of Southbridge. Of this whole number forty-seven, more than one half, are known to have ceased to be among the living in the space of thirty-five years, being the time since the parish was incorporated. Sixteen have removed from this place and probably many of them are not living, eleven have either died or removed, not having been known to me, I can not say which. The remaining sixteen are now living in or near this town, viz.,

Samuel Newell,\* Oliver Hooker, Daniel Morse, Jason Morse\*, Moses Mason\*, Denison Wheelock\*, Nathan Brown,\* Ephraim Wheelock, Ralph Harding, Abisha Sabins,\* Enoch Bacon,\* Cyrus Ammidown,\* William Blood,\* Alpheus Morse,\* Freeman Pratt, Abel Mason, jr.\*.

I have mentioned this list of the names of those who were members of the old parish, which at first may appear to some a dry and uninteresting detail, but that list in connection with the small number who now remain, and the time in which so great a change is made, cannot but present to us a subject for deep reflection. We here see, in the ordinary progress of human affairs the passing away of one generation. In thirty-five years, more than one half the male adults of a given territory are numbered with the dead, and of those who remain in the place not more than six continue to take any part in general public concerns. Such is human life, and such are the important facts of history when examined and viewed in their appropriate connection, which place us who are now on the stage, as it were upon the pinnacle of time's observatory from which, casting our view backward or forward for the short space of thirty-five years we may contemplate a period probably without the sphere of our own brief pilgrimage here on earth.

By the act of incorporation, Oliver Plimpton, Esq., was authorized to call the first meeting of the parish, and accordingly on the 21st of March 1801, issued a warrant to Luther Ammidown, then of Charlton, directing him "to notify and warn the inhabitants belonging to the new poll parish, etc., to meet at the meeting house near Col. Benjamin Freeman's on Tuesday, the 31st of March." The purpose of this meeting was to organize by choosing parish officers, to grant money to supply preaching, etc., "to see what method the parish will take to encourage singing amongst us," and to choose some person to take care of the meeting house. The meeting was held agreeable to the warrant, at which the following officers were chosen: Luther Ammidown, moderator; Joshua Harding, clerk; Oliver Plimpton, Luther Ammidown, John Ammidown, Joshua

\*Not living in 1852.



Harding, Daniel Morse, assessors; Abel Mason, treasurer; David Dix, collector. At this meeting it was voted to raise money by tax to supply preaching the ensuing year. A committee was appointed, consisting of Oliver Plimpton, Abel Mason, sen., and Calvin Ammidown, "to report the sums necessary to be raised, and likewise the appropriation of the meeting house amongst the different denominations." The committee reported that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be granted and assessed, for the purpose of supplying preaching, and fifty dollars for contingent charges, and that the Universalists have the use of the house one fourth part of the time, and the other denominations the other three fourths, which report was accepted by vote. Jonathan Perry, Robert Edwards, and John Ammidown were chosen a committee "to promote and encourage singing," and Capt. William Love to take charge of the meeting house.

I am thus particular in giving the whole proceedings at the meeting, because it was the first occasion of any business transacted in a corporate capacity in this place, and more particularly, because it contains the first action upon the subject of supplying the pulpit, and appropriating the meeting house among the different denominations. Here was to be a test of the practicability of the plan proposed by the committee of 1796, whose report it will be recollectcd had reference to the state of things which must exist, after the erection of a meeting house. It seems that at this meeting all these matters were arranged without any difficulty. A committee of five, consisting of Capt. Ralph Wheelock, David Dix, Capt. Mason, John Ammidown, and Asa Walker was chosen to supply preaching for the year. There were two Universalists, Mr. Dix and Mr. Ammidown, the other three were Congregationalists, from which I conclude that the number of Baptists was so small, or from some other reason they did not claim any voice in the committee.

Another committee, Oliver Plimpton, John Ammidown, and Robert Edwards was chosen, "to procure subscriptions of money from those persons who live within said parish, and did not sign the petition for incorporation," those who were mem-

bers being liable to the tax, which it will be recollectcd was voted at this meeting. And here it may be remarked that this tax of 1801 was the only one ever voted by the parish, or by any other subsequent religious society or other body in this town for the support of preaching. At the next parish meeting, and at every meeting requiring measures to be taken for that purpose, a committee was appointed to procure subscriptions.

At the annual meeting in March, 1802, the only matters worthy of notice are, that a committee on the appropriation of the meeting house reported "that the Universalists have the use of said house half the time, two months at a time, the other denominations the other half," etc., which report was accepted by vote, also that Oliver Hooker, Freeman Pratt, Ralph Harding, and Elijah Marcy were chosen "to lead the singing."

This arrangement for "dividing the time of the several teachers, proposed to preach," it appears did not prove satisfactory, and a meeting was called on the 20th of April following. "To see if the parish will agree to unite in supporting the gospel amongst us, or make some different arrangements from what was done the last meeting respecting dividing the time of the several teachers proposed to preach with us," etc. The meeting was held, but nothing was done by way of making a different arrangement, except a considerable discussion, after which a motion was made and carried to dissolve the meeting.

In the warrant for a meeting in January 1804, an article was inserted, "To see if the parish will agree to be set off from the several towns to which they now belong, as a town by themselves," and upon this article, "it was voted by a large majority to be set off as a town." The same subject was brought up in March of the same year at the annual meeting, but was not acted upon by the meeting.

In March 1805, it was voted "to let the Universalists have the meeting house the second Sunday in every month the ensuing year."

In 1806, this arrangement was again altered, the Universalists to have one half the time.



In Dec. 1807, a meeting was called, principally to see if the parish will petition the general court for an alteration in their act of incorporation, and to set them off as a parish with lines.

At the meeting Dec. 17th a committee was chosen to draft articles of amendment to the act, and it was also "voted to be set off as a parish with lines, and choose a committee of three to petition the general court in behalf of the parish for that purpose." The committee were, Joshua Harding, Jason Morse, and Jonathan Perry, and Oliver Plimpton were chosen to present the petition to the general court.

This project of being set off as a parish with lines did not succeed, or probably was abandoned without much exertion, it being intended at, and before that time to apply to be incorporated as a town as soon as circumstances would justify this measure.

In August 1811, an attempt was made by the call of a special meeting "to have constant, and regular preaching," but the result was only the following rather singular vote, viz., "that it be recommended to the present ministerial committee to employ Mr. Sawyer a number of Sabbaths, between now and next annual meeting."

In Nov., 1811, upon the request of several individuals, a special meeting was called by the assessors, "to see if said parish will petition the next general court to be set off from the several towns of which they are composed, to be a town by themselves, by the name of——."

At this meeting, Nov. 25, it was "voted to be set off as a town, also voted to choose a committee of three, viz., Joshua Harding, Luther Ammidown, and Reuben Harrington to take charge of a petition to be sent to the general court." The subject was further postponed to the annual meeting to be held in March following, at which it was, "voted to have three in addition to the committee relative to being set off as a town, whose duty is to have the petition copied off anew, and the plan of the proposed town improved, in order to be sent to the general court. The additional committee were Oliver Hooker, George Sumner, and Asa Walker. This meeting was adjourned to May 19, and it was then "voted to choose Gershom Plimpton as

agent to present to the next general court the petition and old plan of said parish, for the purpose expressed in said petition, bearing with him a copy of the votes of said parish, relative to being set off, etc., and, "that the committee to whom was entrusted said petition enter the name of —— in blank, for the proposed town." This vote, as recorded was indeed a singular one, and how it could be complied with, I cannot understand. The truth, however is, that the business of fixing upon a name for this new town was attended with no little difficulty, as will be seen in the sequel.

It may here be observed that in all the efforts of the parish to become a town, there was great opposition on the part of Sturbridge, Charlton and Dudley, but more particularly from the first named town, on account of the larger share of territory which they were likely to lose. The object therefore of the petitioners was not accomplished without much trouble, delay and expense, and the agent first appointed not succeeding in that year, at the annual meeting March 30, 1813, and adjourned to May 17, James Wolcott, jr., was appointed agent, and Oliver Hooker and Oliver Plimpton assistants, the first to attend the general court, and the others to advise and consult with him on the subject of the petition. There was still delay, the object was not accomplished, and in December 1813, by request, a special meeting was called, to be held January 11, 1814, "To see if the parish will choose an agent," etc. At the meeting it was voted to postpone choosing an agent, and to choose a committee of five to make a new draft of petition, etc., and to obtain as many signers as possible previous to the 25th inst., and the meeting was adjourned to that time.

At the adjourned meeting Gershom Plimpton was appointed agent to attend the present session of the general court, and present the petition and plan, and he was "authorized to act and transact anything and everything necessary, and relative towards carrying into effect the prayer of said petition in his power."

It seems by the peculiar and strong terms used in this vote, that the people had become impatient at their continual failures,



and that the measure which suggested itself at all times, as most likely to insure success was to have a new agent, and in this instance, to confer upon him unlimited authority to act, and transact any, and everything. But all this did not answer the purpose, and at the next annual meeting, March 29, 1814, Oliver Plimpton was chosen an agent, "to attend the next session of the general court, and use his endeavors to obtain an order of notice, or at least an examining committee, for business relative to being set off as a town." It was here probably that the first step was taken which would prove an entering wedge in establishing the town, viz., the request for an examining committee. This could not be refused, especially as it was to be at the expense of the petitioners, and there was so little doubt that a committee would be granted, that a special meeting was called, May 17, 1814, to adopt measures with reference to the visits of the committee. A committee of five was chosen to wait on the court's committee, and pay the expense. An additional agent was chosen to attend the general court, viz. Maj. Calvin Ammidown. A committee was chosen to survey the parish again more accurately, and a committee of seven to draft a new petition, and circulate it.

Another special meeting was called, Dec. 6, 1814, at which Jason Morse was chosen as an additional agent, and Joshua Harding, Gershon Plimpton, and Fordyce Foster appointed a committee to draft an act of incorporation. At this meeting also came up the important subject of determining upon a name for the new town, and from some trivial circumstances the discussion of this point led to greater warmth of passion, excitement, and violence than was ever before, or since witnessed in this place at any public meeting. It was, however, at last voted that, "each one bring forward his favorite name for the proposed town, and that one be selected from the list," and a committee of five was chosen for the purpose of making this selection. This committee were, Abel Mason, sen., Joshua Harding, Gershon Plimpton, Fordyce Foster, and Jacob Endicott. The meeting was adjourned for half an hour, for the deliberations of this committee.

On meeting after adjournment the committee reported the names of Southbridge and Quinebang, for the consideration of the parish, and Southbridge obtained the vote. I have always understood that Southbridge was the name proposed by the venerable Capt. Abel Mason, sen.

This important matter was not yet settled, however. The meeting it seems was adjourned for some other purpose to the 3d of January 1815, and was held accordingly on that day. The committee appointed to survey the parish made a report which was accepted, and a committee was chosen to meet the Dudley committee relative to the proposed line between that town and the new one, also it was voted to amend the third section of the act of incorporation by inserting a provision for securing our proportion of legacies and bequests due, or belonging to either of the three towns. The exciting subject of a name was again brought up, and it was "voted to reconsider the name of Southbridge, and insert the name of Vienna. A committee of three was appointed to invite those that remonstrated against being set off. The occasion of the appointment of this committee was that several persons in Charlton, who were included in the east part of the new town according to the lines, as petitioned for, remonstated to the general court against being set off in the new town, which at this stage of the proceedings, caused much difficulty, trouble and delay, in finally determining the easterly line of the town.

The meeting of January 3d was again adjourned to the 20th. Here it was once more voted to reconsider the name of Vienna, and insert the name Southbridge, and it was further voted, "that if there be any other town by the name of Southbridge in this commonwealth, that Newburgh or Newbern be substituted." There was however no other town by that name, and thus by this last vote, after so much rough handling, and so many hairbreadth escapes, perhaps from eternal oblivion, the name of Southbridge finally triumphed over all enemies and opposition, and established its claim to the first rank and highest place in all the tens of thousands of epistles which should go forth from our



little territory from and after the 15th of February 1816, in all after time,

The new town had now got a "name," but as I have here intimated, it had not yet its "local habitation." Although the business was in a fair way to a successful termination, yet the difficulties with the Charlton remonstrants and others in relation to a part of the petitioners in Dudley living east of John Ammidown's, who it was found at last must be left out, by the decision of the court's committee, these and other things caused embarrassment and delay. At the annual March meeting in 1815, Calvin Ammidown, Fred'k W. Bottom, and James Wolcott were appointed agents to carry on the business of the proposed new town, and it became necessary to have a second committee from the general court. This committee consisted of Dr. Starkweather, the celebrated Dr. Noah Webster, (author of Webster's spelling book, third part the American dictionary, etc.) It became necessary also to send one of the agents to a part of this committee in the recess of the legislature with a plan of such lines as it was thought would be accepted by the inhabitants of the parish, and to see if it was thought reasonable by the committee. This last court committee came out in Oct., 1815, for the purpose of holding a meeting in each of the three towns to hear all parties, and finally settle the point as to the lines, what individuals should be left in the old towns, etc. Those who did not wish to come in from Charlton were excluded. They were, I think, Jesse Merrit, Royal Ellis, and Eliakim Chamberlain, and perhaps one or two others, all of whom, I believe, have since regretted that they did not come into this town.

In the part of Dudley, Otis Ammidown and several of the Cheneys, who were among the petitioners, were excluded, but it was agreed by vote that the part then set off would assist them afterwards, and pay the expenses of obtaining an additional act to annex them to Southbridge, and as soon as it was thought proper they petitioned, and in 1852 were annexed to this town.

The "act to incorporate the town of Southbridge," was approved by the govern-

or, and thus became a law February 15, 1816\*.

The first town meeting was called by a warrant from Oliver Plimpton, Esq., and held March 6, 1816, at which the town was organized by the appointment of all necessary officers, etc.

In the subsequent transactions of the town, committees were appointed to meet similar committees from Sturbridge, Charlton, and Dudley, for the purpose of making a division of town property. This division will show the relative proportion which the property set off from each town bore to the whole towns as they existed before.

Charlton, about one-tenth—amount to be divided \$1,059.10; belonging to Southbridge \$100.15.

Sturbridge, about one-fifth—amount to be divided \$524.38; belonging to Southbridge \$112.57.

Dudley, about one-sixth—amount to be divided \$854.38; belonging to Southbridge \$58.65.

In Sturbridge it was found that the whole number of ratable polls was 476, about one-third of which were set off to Southbridge, 151, and also that the whole valuation was \$19,514, and in Southbridge \$5,027, or a little more than one-fourth.

The population of this town was in 1820, 1066; in 1830, as given in the last census, 1444.

At other periods the population of our territory may probably be estimated about as follows, from the best data I can obtain: In 1801, between 450 and 500; in 1816, the time of our incorporation nearly, 900, and the present number is probably not much short of 1800.

There was a new arrangement of school districts in 1816, in which the Globe district was made from a part of what had been the centre district, and a part of the Charlton territory. The school house in the centre, which then stood where Mrs. Clemence now lives was located where it is near the Baptist meeting house. The first house was burnt in 1828, and rebuilt the same year on the same ground. The other districts in the Sturbridge part re-

\*In a short time the name of Honest town was but seldom mentioned.



mained nearly as they were before, and there was one district mostly from Dudley, and one half district from Charlton making six whole and one half district, and these have not since been materially altered, excepting that in the centre and Globe districts, the increase of scholars has made it necessary to resort to a division of the scholars, and to employ two or more teachers.

And here I am admonished that having already occupied too much time in relating things which may appear less interesting to this audience than they have to me, and having endeavored to trace out the various steps by which we became a town, I must omit any further notice of public proceedings as a town.

And by way of apology, in making which I dare not use but a few words, I must observe that one great difficulty in preparing this narrative has been to condense the materials, and mould them into something like reasonable dimensions. In this I have not succeeded as I wished, and could not without abandoning the course, and changing the plan which I at first marked out, I know full well, and was aware of it before I finished, that three quarters of an hour is as long as I ought to detain you, but I could not bring it within that compass.

The remaining subjects will be noticed as briefly as possible, which are:

The ecclesiastical affairs of the parish and town.

The progress of business, trade, etc.

The progress of literature, the lyceum, and temperance associations.

The names of some of the first inhabitants, and times of their commencing, and characters and anecdotes of a very few, and all I have been able to obtain.

I have before stated that the first meeting for public worship was April 6, 1800. In that year there were five different preachers: Rev. Alvan Underwood, 12 Sabbaths; Rev. Zenas L. Leonard, 15; Rev. Mr. Larned of Charlton, 2; Rev. Timothy Williams, 1; Rev. Mr. Bromley, 2, in all 32 Sabbaths in nine months.

In 1801, 17 ministers preached 39 Sabbaths; Mr. Underwood, 2; Mr. Leonard, 8; Mr. Bromley, 1; Hosea Ballou, 1; Mr.

Turner, 8; Mr. Sabins, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brown, Mr. Graves of Woodstock, Ezra Williams, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Loomis, each one Sabbath; Mr. Bisco, 2; Mr. Thurber, 2; Thaddeus Fairbanks, 5; Mr. Coddington of Holland, 2.

In this year, Sept. 16, the Congregational church was established and organized; deacons, Asa Walker and Daniel Morse. There were 21 members, 8 males and 13 females: Asa Walker, Daniel Morse, Elias Plimpton, Fletcher Foster, Abel Mason, Jason Morse, Samuel Ellis, Deborah Freeman, Anne Dresser, Lois Foster, Rachel Foster, Experience Wheelock, Lucy Mason, Mary Mason, Abigail Ellis, Phebe Morse, Jemima Harding, Ruth Mason, Mary Chamberlain.

In 1802, there were 12 ministers, and 35 meetings, or preaching on 35 Sabbaths: Mr. Underwood, 2; Mr. Leonard, 5; Mr. Larned, 3; Mr. Furver, 8; Mr. Fairbanks, 4; Mr. Loomis, 6; Mr. Lane of Sturbridge 2; Joshua Flagg, 2; John Nichols, 1; Mr. Lyman of Woodstock, 1; Mr. Phillips and Daniel Marten, one half day each.

In 1803, 6 ministers preached 33 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 6; Mr. Larned, 11; Mr. Ballou, 1; Mr. Turner, 11; Mr. Flagg, 3; Mr. Murray of Boston, 1.

In 1804, 9 ministers, 31 Sabbaths: Mr. Underwood, 1; Mr. Leonard, 5; Mr. Larned, 4; Mr. Turner, 12; Mr. Fairbanks, 5; Ezra Williams, 1; Mr. Flagg, 1; Mr. Wild, 1; Mr. Whipple of Charlton, 1.

In this year there was a convention or association of Universalists, attended by Mr. Murray of Boston, Mr. Ballou, Leland, Streeter, etc.

In 1805, 5 ministers, 25 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 7; Mr. Turner, 10; Mr. Fairbanks, 6; Mr. Coddington, 1; Ezra Williams, 1.

In 1806, 7 ministers, 23 Sabbaths: Mr. Underwood, 1; Mr. Leonard, 4; Mr. Turner, 8; Mr. Fairbanks, 5; Mr. Wild, 1; David Batchellor, 1; Mr. Judson, 3.

In 1807, 8 ministers, 28 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 8; Mr. Ballou, 1; Mr. Turner, 3; John Nichols, 10; Mr. Wild, 1; Mr. Whipple, 1; Mr. Riddle, 3; Mr. Noyes, 1.

In 1808, 8 ministers, 25 Sabbaths: Mr. Underwood, 1; Mr. Leonard, 3; Mr. Turner, 3; Elijah Sabin, 1; John Nichols, 12;



William Graves, 1; Mr. Wilson, 3; Mr. Sampson, 1.

In 1809, 6 ministers, including Dea. Grosvenor, 18 Sabbaths and more, etc.: Mr. Turner, 2; John Nichols, 1; Mr. Whipple, 1; David Batchellor, 6; Mr. Wilson, 2; Dea. Nathan Grosvenor, who read sermons and carried on the meetings 6 Sabbaths, and also from Sept. 24 to the end of year.

In 1810, Mr. Grosvenor read sermons as last year from April 5th, to June 1st, besides which there were 7 ministers, 19 Sabbaths: Mr. Flagg, 1; Mr. Whipple, 1; Mr. Lamson, 1; Salmon Hebard, 1; Mr. Whitney, 1; Elisha Sweet, 13; Mr. Pomeroy, 1.

In 1811, 13 ministers, 28 Sabbaths: Mr. Underwood, 1; Mr. Bolles (q 11); Mr. Smith, 1; Mr. Moon, 1; Mr. Fay, 1; Mr. Sawyer, 1; Luke B. Foster, 1; John Nichols, 11; Mr. Whipple, 1; Mr. Batchellor, 2; Mr. Wilson, 2; Dea. Grosvenor, 1; Mr. Sweet, 4.

In 1812, 14 ministers, 22 1-2 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 1-2; Abiel Williams, 1; Mr. Bolles (q 11); Mr. Moon, 6; Mr. Fay, 1; Mr. Angell, 1; Ezra Williams, 1; Mr. Clark, 1; Mr. Kimball, 1; Mr. Lane, 1; Mr. Rice, 2; Phileman Menger, 1; Mr. Sampson, 1; Luke B. Foster, 4.

In 1813, 11 ministers, 20 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 2; Mr. Fay, 2; Mr. Angell, 1; Mr. Lane, 1; Mr. Batchellor, 2; Doc. Austin, 1; Jordan Dodge, 1; Mr. Woodruff, 4; Stephen Haskell, 1; Mr. Comique, 1; John Fuller or Taylor, 4.

In 1814, 8 ministers, 27 Sabbaths: Mr. Leonard, 7; Mr. Angell, 7; Mr. Knight, 6; Mr. Field, 2; Mr. Branch, 1; Mr. Batchellor, 1; Stephen Williams, 2; Mr. Bently, 1.

In 1815, 13 ministers, 49 Sabbaths: Mr. Park, 20; Mr. Underwood, 1; Mr. Leonard, 1; Mr. Rich, 9; Mr. Mills, 1; Mr. Angell, 1; Mr. Lane, 2; Mr. Johnson, 1; Mr. Whipple, 5; Mr. Batchellor, 3; Mr. Smith, 2; Mr. Bates, 1; Mr. Backus, 2.

In 1816, 11 ministers, 43 1-2 Sabbaths: Mr. Park, 17 1-2; Mr. Leonard, 1; Abial Williams, 2; Mr. Spooner, 1; Mr. Putnam, 1; Mr. Angell, 15; Esek Brown, 1; Mr. Branch, 1; Mr. Whipple, 1; Mr. Batchellor, 1; Mr. Backus, 2.

In this period of sixteen years there were seventy-four different ministers, em-

bracing the denominations of Congregationalists, Baptists, Universalists, and Methodists, and you will have observed that the number of Sabbaths on which there was public worship, from 1805 to 1814 did not average more than half in each year, and if it were not known to have been the fact, it might readily be supposed, that in a place like this, remote from any other convenient place of attending church, to be destitute of any preaching one half of the time would naturally lead to an habitual disregard of the Sabbath; such a state of things could not but be unfavorable to the character and morals of the inhabitants, of the youth in particular.

As soon as it was determined that we were to become a town, if a proper regard for the welfare of the community were not sufficient, there were other circumstances which tended to hasten measures for the settlement of a minister.

The meeting house was owned, and had always before been occupied by different denominations, and it now became a question if a minister was to be settled, of which denomination he should be. And here I regret to say, there were some proceedings such as preparations for using force in obtaining the occupation of the house. Such things if countenanced by those who profess to be engaged in the cause of religion confer no credit, and can be of no service to that cause. They belong rather to the class of partisan wrangling. A moment's consideration could not but suggest to all the fact, that there were rights and property, in this question, without a proper regard to which on all sides, no minister could be settled in that house. This was soon discovered, and arrangements were made, by which the Congregationalists sold their interest in the meeting house to the Baptists, and those who associated with them.

Mr. Park preached most of the time in 1816, until 23d, when the Congregationalists left the meeting house, and held their first separate meeting at the dwelling house of Mr. Brown, (near the elm trees.) They continued to hold meetings at this house, until they erected the house now owned by Dr. Hartwell (in



which was used for public worship until the South meeting house was erected in 1821. The Congregational society was incorporated December 13, 1816, and on the 18th of December of that year Mr. Park was ordained as pastor of the church and society, in which place he continued sixteen years until Dec. 18 1832, when he was dismissed by his own request.

Rev. Henry I. Lamb was ordained as pastor of the same, June 6, 1833, and dismissed April 23, 1835, at his own request, but continued to preach till the 6th of June. There was constant preaching during the season, and a part of the time by candidates for settlement, among whom was Rev. Eber Carpenter, the present pastor, who was ordained Dec. 1, 1835.

After the Congregationalists sold their interest in the meeting house, Rev. George Angell supplied the pulpit principally, and on the 27th of August, 1816, he was installed as pastor.

The Baptist church was established January 29, 1817. It then consisted of 23 members, (males and females). There are now, I understand, 179 members. Mr. Angell died Feb. 18, 1827.

Rev. Adison Parker was installed Aug. 8, 1827, and continued till Dec. 2, 1832.

Rev. David C. Bolles was installed March 12, 1833, and his connection as pastor continued till May 1, 1835.

Rev. Joseph G. Binney, the present pastor, commenced his labors as pastor August 23, 1835.

The Baptist society was incorporated by the name of the First Baptist society in Southbridge, January 29th, 1822.\*

While Mr. Bolles was pastor arrangements had been made to repair the meeting house by taking out all the interior pews, etc., and erecting slips; and by removing the former steeple, and erecting a new one.

The pastors of both of these societies appear to enjoy the confidence and esteem of the people; and it is hoped that their labors may be the means of advancing the cause of true religion, and of instilling such principles as will tend to strengthen the

virtue, and improve the character of our growing population.

It may be well to mention here, that at the time the parish was established in 1801, arrangements were made for a place to deposit the remains of the dead. It did not long remain unoccupied, for the year 1801 was a season of sickness and death among the inhabitants of this place, particularly the children.

The first death after the burial ground was prepared, and consequently the first inhabitants were: 1801, August 8th, Oliver Plimpton, jr.; Aug. 9th, Edwin Plimpton; 10th, Fanny Plimpton; 20th, Dwight P. Clarke; 25th, Louisa Plimpton. The first and last named were Oliver Plimpton's children, the second and third, children of Gershom Plimpton, the other a child of Ebenezer Clark. From that time to the first of January, there were many other deaths, and among them some of the principal men of the parish, Mr. Jeremiah Shumway, Oct. 24th, and Lieut. Robert Edwards, Nov. 21st.

In passing to notice the business of the place, the time admits only of the bare statement of a few dates, in relation to some parts.

The first and principal business of this, as of most places, was clearing lands, and preparing farms for cultivation. This has progressed in the ordinary course.

The first store (unless there was one at or before that time, kept by Mr. Luther Ammidown near his late residence) was kept by Oliver Plimpton, Esq., (in company with Maj. Ellis, of Medfield), commenced selling goods in 1791, in one of the rooms of his dwelling house; but this location, as may well be supposed, was not very agreeable to the female department, and in about a year afterwards he built a store near his house, which was for many years the principal place of trade for the westerly part of this town, although much of the trade was at the store of Newell and Upham in Sturbridge. At first he found great difficulty in obtaining license, as there was at that time probably more patriotism, and less taste for foreign gewgaws than at the present day.

After several years, this store was discontinued, and Oliver Plimpton, Doctor

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\*An association or society was formed, and a constitution, or by-laws adopted, May 1, 1816.



Wolcott, and others established a store in this village, at the place where the brick store of Luther and Holmes Ammidown is now situated, and in the building which they removed, and the business has been continued at that place by different persons.

In about 1810 or 1811 Fordyce Foster and James Wolcott, jr., established a store at the place where the Dresser block now stands. This was continued until about 1813, when James Wolcott, jr., and Perez B. Wolcott erected a store at the place where the North Tavern or Temperance house stands. This was purchased by the Globe Manufacturing company in 1814, and by them occupied as a store until 1817, when it was sold to Maj. Calvin Ammidown, and the building was enlarged and converted into a tavern.

In about 1816 the store now occupied by Plimpton & Lane was established, and the business for some time carried on by Calvin Ammidown, Larkin Ammidown, and others, until a division of the property, which took place in about 1817.

Since that time other stores have been established in different parts of the town, "too numerous to mention."

But it was the waters of Quinebaug which were destined to put new life and vigor into the business of this town. For several years previous to 1811 and 1812 individuals from abroad had frequently been here to examine, and make calculations for erecting manufacturing establishments.

The first cotton factory in this vicinity, was at the place that is now called Westville. It was built in 1811 by an incorporated company. The owners were Rev. Mr. Leonard, John Plimpton, Stephen Newell, Moses Fiske, Jephtha and Zeba Plimpton, Nathaniel and Franklin Rider. Capital about 6,000 dollars. It afterwards sold to a new company, (in part the former owners) viz: Ira Carpenter, James Bliss, Ezra Perry, Ezra Perry, jr., David Atherton, Mr. Leonard, John Plimpton, Moses Fiske, and Stephen Newell.

It was afterwards sold to Joseph S. Gladning, and Andrew Young, jr., in 1822, and by them sold to John Mason in 1824, by whom it was sold to James Wolcott, jr., Samuel A. Groves, and Samuel H. Judson, in the same year, and it was purchased by

the present owners in 1833, Mr. Plimpton, Doctor John Seabury, Samuel H. Judson, afterwards incorporated as Westville Manufacturing company.

The factory now owned by the Dresser Manufacturing company, was put in operation in 1814.

The owners were John Green, of Rhode Island, and William Sumner, the latter having the care of the business and living in this town. This privilege was owned in part by Maj. George Sumner, who erected clothing works below the cotton factory, and that business and wool carding was continued until the whole became the property of S.H. Babcock, of Boston, by whom it was sold to Harvey Dresser. After the purchase in 1833, it was greatly enlarged and improved by filling up with new machinery. It now belongs to a corporation by the name of the "Dresser Manufacturing company."

At about the same time in which this factory was first erected, a woolen factory was put in operation, near the old bridge. It was at first called the "Charlton Woolen Manufacturing company," and in 1816 it passed into the hands of some different owners, viz: Jeremiah Shumway, Benjamin F. Shumway, Joseph Marey, Timothy Paige, jr., and Reuben Harrington, and was incorporated by the name of the "Southbridge Manufacturing company." Such has been the combined operation of fires, misfortunes and perhaps other equally powerful causes, that nothing is now left to preserve the memory of this woolen factory, excepting some considerable amount of old debts and executions against the company unpaid and consigned to out of "Profit and Loss."

The business of manufacturing at the "Globe Village," so called, was commenced in 1814. The spinning was commenced in the old mill, which stood near the road, on the South side. The first owners were Thomas Upham, David Fiske, Samuel Newell, James Wolcott, jr., Perez B. Wolcott, Josiah I. Fiske, Frances Wheelock, Ephraim Angell, Moses Plimpton, and Samuel S. Newell, a part of whom were incorporated by the name of the "Globe Manufacturing company," in Oct., 1814. The factory building below the road was



erected in 1815. It was at first and until 1817 a cotton factory. In 1817 there was a division of the property among the owners; the South side being taken by James Woleott, Perez B. Woleott, Samuel A. Groves, and Ephraim Angell, and the other side by the remaining proprietors. Additions were soon made to the South side, and the woollen business established, and in 1820 the owners of the other side, who still composed the "Globe Manufacturing company," sold out the whole of their property to Mr. Woleott and his company. This company sold the cotton machinery to the Columbian Manufacturing company in 1821.

After the purchase from the Globe Manufacturing company in Feb., 1820, James Woleott, jr., Perez B. Woleott, and Samuel A. Groves were incorporated by the name of the Woleott Woolen Manufacturing company, and the company was increased by new proprietors in Boston, who made investments to considerable amount. After the great misfortune occasioned by the falling of the dam, and the destruction of property it occasioned, the Boston owners determined to abandon the concern, and get rid of their interest. In 1829 it passed into the hands of Messrs. Sayles and Hitchcock, of Boston, and in 1832 they obtained a new act of incorporation by the name of the "Hamilton Woolen company," and the establishment is now owned by this company, though with some recent changes of proprietors. That village is still called the "Globe," which name it will probably continue to bear from the name of the first company established in 1814.

The Columbian Manufacturing company was first established as a firm, consisting of Calvin Ammidown, Ebenezer D. Ammidown, Moses Plimpton, Samuel Hartwell, and Samuel L. Newell, in 1821, and the factory, etc., was erected in that year. It was incorporated in 1826, consisting of Eben D. Ammidown, Moses Plimpton, Samuel Hartwell, and Stilman Plimpton.

The business and establishment have at different times been increased, and it may be stated of all the manufacturing establishments herein mentioned, that when first started and for several years after the machinery did not exceed from one eighth to one fourth the amount they now contain.

The factory of Larkin Ammidown was erected in 1832, I think. The machinery has since been increased by the addition of looms, etc.

The introduction of manufacturing in this place in 1812 to 1814 may be considered as the great cause or first step in the rapid increase of business and population in this town. As an illustration it need only be remarked, that previous to that time there were not more than ten dwelling houses within one fourth of a mile of the Baptist meeting house. At the Globe village the houses of Capt. Newell, Gershon Plimpton, and Samuel Fiske, were the only dwellings. There was no such thing as teaming, as a regular business, and a four horse team had never been seen here. The merchants and manufacturers occasionally hired two horses, and sometimes, though not often, three of different persons, and a wagon, and sent after their goods, cotton, etc. There are now within the distance mentioned from the village about 50 dwelling houses, and at the Globe village nearly 20. The transportation of stock for manufacturing and of merchandise, etc., keeps in constant employment three teams of four and six horses, besides a large amount of transportation done by farmers and others for themselves.

The first measure for the promotion of temperance, by means of an association, was in 1827. In November of that year a society was formed upon a principle of temperate drinking. It was highly approved and there was no difficulty in getting members; every person, no matter what had been his habits, was perfectly willing to sign the pledge to drink temperately. It was so easy to perform the requirement without any change, it being a well known fact that every drunkard is in his own estimation a temperate drinker. It was soon found however, that the only effect of this society was to leave men just where they were before, all temperate drinkers in their own opinions.

In Dec., 1829, the Temperance Society which now exists, formed upon the principles of total abstinence from the use of spirits, was established. From the few who first joined it has been receiving additions to its members, till they now amount



to more than 500 adhering and active members within the town.

In literature there is nothing worthy of particular notice in our history, more than has been related in the notice of our common schools, except that in Oct., 1826, the Southbridge Lyceum was established, being among the first association of the kind in this state. Its meetings were held during the winter season from October to March every year till Feb., 1834, when they were discontinued. This, and the Young Men's association at the Globe village, the principal exercises in which were discussions and debates upon questions previously proposed, have unquestionably been the means of much improvement to those who have attended the meetings. Something of the kind ought to be sustained.

Prior to 1836 the following were the only persons who had a liberal education belonging within the bounds of Southbridge: Daniel Fiske Harding, son of Joshua Harding jr., and Jemima (Fiske); William Larned Marcy, son of Jedediah Marcy, jr., and Ruth (Larned); and Comfort Dix, son of David Dix, great grandson of Col. Moses Marcy.\*

I have mentioned the subject of roads, but time will not permit an attempt to give any account of particulars in establishing them. In general, it may be said, that when the place was first settled, there was much to do in laying out roads. At almost every town meeting there were several new ones to be established or others to be altered. Most of our old roads were fixed nearly where they now are, from 1743 to 1755. The bridge near the Westville factory was called "Dennison's bridge"; that and the others were frequently carried away by freshets in the spring, and it is said by some that the name of Sturbridge was suggested by the circumstance that the freshets always carried off the bridges.

The road from Dennison (or Westville) bridge towards this village was laid out and accepted, March, 1743; by Jonathan I. Ammidown's and Grosvenor Marsh's, in 1750; from Westville bridge by the Foster

place, south, same year; from Westville, by Lovell Morse's, in 1754; from the bridge at Globe Village, north, by John McKinstry's, in 1756; from Lovell Morse's (then James Dennison's) by Ralph Harding's to the other road, 1756; from Woodstock line "south of Col. Marcy's new sawmill" (the Nathan Brown mill) to Joseph Clark's, 1771; from Woodstock line by Alpha Morse's to Freeman Pratt's, in 1772; and in the same year a short piece of road from the main road in the village, towards the Marcy mills to Charlton line, which crossed between Mr. Underwood's and the old bridge.

These are all the roads I noticed in looking over the records of Sturbridge.

It now remains for me to speak more particularly than I have yet done of some of the first settlers in different parts of the town, and although this portion of the subject may appear to have belonged more properly to the commencement, I have thought proper to introduce it at the close of this lecture. I must therefore, for a few moments, ask you to go back a little more than a century among our ancestors.

You will recollect that on a former occasion I stated that the settlement of this town and Sturbridge was commenced in 1731 and 1732. So far as I can ascertain, the four first persons who arrived were Joseph Smith, James Dennison, Joseph Cheney, and David Morse, which was in 1730 or 1731. I think David Morse began at the place now owned by Capt. Mason, as I find that in 1737 Jonathan Mason bought of him land "with a dwelling house", that is probably a log cabin. With two or three exceptions, I shall confine myself to those who are known to have remained in what is now this town.

James Dennison then was the first. For one or two years he made his lonely habitation in a kind of cave formed by rocks, now to be seen on the hill east of the road leading from Lovell Morse's by Mr. Dennison Wheelock's. It is said he got alarmed at some noise about his premises one night, and supposing that a bear or some other animal had designs unfavorable to him he did not afterward continue there nights.

Mr. Dennison moved his wife from Medfield, the town from which he came, in May,

\*Afterwards Comptroller, Governor and Judge of Superior Court of New York and Secretary of War.



1732. Her name was Experience. The house he had prepared for their residence was, and a part of it may be now, standing east of Lovell Morse's. On the 31st of August, 1732, was born at this place, Experience Dennison, daughter of James and Experience Dennison, and the first child born in Sturbridge, or "in this place," as the old record states it. This daughter was their only child, and she was afterwards married to Capt. Ralph Wheelock who will be more particularly mentioned. Mr. Dennison lived at the place before described until his death, the time of which I have not been able to ascertain.

The next person to be noticed is Col. Moses Marcy. He was born in Woodstock, probably about the year 1700. Knowing that he was born in Woodstock and that he must have resided there nearly 30 years, I conclude that Woodstock was settled more than 30 years before this place. Mr. Marcy came to this place in Oct., 1732, and first resided for several years on the north side of the river, somewhere between the bridge and the interval. Previous to 1740 he removed to the place where Jedediah Marcy now lives, and about that time erected the house which is now there, though it has been covered since and probably altered and improved otherwise. This was the first upright house built in town.

Col. Marcy was married in 1723 to Miss Prudence Morris. There were some things rather romantic in those days as well as in modern times, in matters of love, courtship, and marriage. The parents of Miss Prudence did not like the proposed connexion between Mr. Marcy and their daughter and in order to secure her effectually against his visits, they shut her up in a chamber. But as much as they might think they had raised her above him they did not get her quite high enough. He went in the night with a stick or fishing rod, and knocked gently on the window where he had ascertained she was confined, a summons to which she immediately attended by opening the window. At this interview it was agreed that he should depart out of the neighborhood to a place called Pimlico, and she was to prevail on her parents, her lover being gone, and no longer any danger, to permit her to go to Pimlico to visit her friends.

This she effected on condition that the maid servant of the house should accompany her, to which she had no objection. She made several of these visits, and it need hardly be told to those who know the art and perseverance of true lovers, that at these visits means were contrived to carry on the courtship, and that the result was Miss Prudence became the wife of Mr. Marcy.

Col. Marcy was for 18 years town clerk in Southbridge, and by reason of his particular care in recording the births of all his children, both date and place, I am enabled to ascertain some facts in his life which I could not otherwise obtain.

He had 11 children, 4 sons and 7 daughters; 5 born in Woodstock—the last July 1, 1732, 2 in Oxford—that is on the other side of the river, and 4 at the place now owned by Jedediah Marcy. One of his sons, Jedediah, lived in Dudley. He was father of the late Capt. Jedediah Marcy, jr., of th's town. The last named was father of William Marcy, etc., governor of New York. Another son, Elijah, lived at the Brown mills, and was killed by a fall at the grist mill, according to the Sturbridge record, Feb. 1, 1779. From this son are descended Lennel Marcy, father of Dwight S. Marcy. One other son, Daniel, lived first on the south side of the road near the Columbian pond, and afterwards lived and died at the place owned by Jacob Oakes. He was father of the late Morris Marcy of this town; of this other son, Moses, I do not know the history. One of the daughters married Richard Dresser, grandfather to Harvey Dresser. One married William Plimpton, one Dr. Babbit, sen., one Gershom Plimpton, sen., one Gen. Timothy Newell, one Jonathan Newell of Leicester; the other daughter died at the age of nine years.

For business enterprise, and accumulation of property, Col. Marcy was undoubtedly the first man in the place. He acquired a large amount of land, which after many divisions and sub-divisions has descended with greatly increased value to some of his posterity.\*

He was also a man of much influence in

\*He built the first mills near this village, and at the Nathan Brown place.



public affairs. From 1738 to 1762 he was for 24 years moderator at every annual town meeting, 25 years one of the selectmen, 8 years treasurer, and 18 years town clerk, and the first representative to the general court, in 1766. He died Oct. 9, 1779, not having lived to participate in the general joy of the nation, at the glorious termination of the revolutionary war.

There are but few of the first settlers of whom I have learned many particulars, as their families, characters etc., or as to the time when they commenced; of course they can only be mentioned in connection with the place where they resided.

The first resident immediately in the village was Samuel Freeman, father of Col. Benjamin Freeman. He resided at the house above the elm trees, or rather at the place where that house stands, it having since been altered and enlarged. He was a blacksmith, and did all the custom work for several miles around. His shop was on a part of the ground now occupied by the new tavern. He began about 1745, and died Dec. 31, 1772. His son Benjamin was also a blacksmith and kept the first tavern in this place, at the house now occupied by Luther Annidown, (unless his father had kept a tavern before which I do not know.)

Most of the land in this village and for some distance on all sides remained in the hands of the descendants of Col. Marcy and Mr. Freeman until some time since 1801, and prior to that time no additions of buildings were made.

The first settlement of the Globe village was made, as near as I can ascertain, by Aaron Martin, at the place of the late Maj Samuel Fiske, some time about or before 1738. He was drowned in attempting to ford the river, March 11, 1751. There was no bridge at that time and the place of crossing was some distance below the present bridge.

The water privilege at this village was first occupied by Gershom Plimpton. He was born in Medfield, January 14, 1733-4, and came to this place in 1753. He came on foot with his pack, gun, and ammunition, etc., and on his way killed two partridges which he sold to pay his first night's entertainment after his arrival. He was a clothier by trade and erected works

for that business on the south side of the road. He lived several years in a part of his clothing shop, and afterwards built at the place now owned by Henry Plimpton, the house being a part of that now standing. He afterwards built a grist mill, which was continued at that place until 1814. In 1758, March 2nd, he married to Martha Marcy, daughter of Moses Marcy, as has been before mentioned. He was fond of hunting and fishing, always kept one or more hounds, and occasionally went on hunting excursions almost to the last period of his life, but never was anxious to increase his property. He at first purchased about 100 acres of land, and made no addition to it afterwards. He died January 27, 1808, with the reputation of a benevolent and honest man.

There were many incidents in his life which would illustrate the progress of settlement, etc., at the time, but I can mention only one. Some years after he began, probably about 1756, there was nothing but a foot path from this place to the old Col. Cheney house (so called) which was near the place of Larkin Annidown's factory. Coming from Col. Cheney's in the evening, and when near the place of the Columbian factory, he heard the howling of wolves, not far from him, and he supposed they had seen or smelled him and were collecting to pursue him. It may be imagined that his speed was soon increased to its maximum, and being very active and swift of foot, he in a few minutes reached Mr. Freeman's in this village, and the wolves had to make other provision for their supper.

The place on the hill now occupied by Thomas N. Harding was commenced by Jonathan Perry, from Watertown, some years before 1738. After he purchased and had made some improvements he returned to Watertown, having planted some corn, etc., for a crop in the fall. On returning to this land he furnished himself with half a bushel of Indian meal, some powder and shot intending to procure game for meat, and to have some bread or Johnny cake to subsist upon till his crops came in. These articles he brought on his back from Watertown and anticipated a comfortable living, but imagine his disappointment when he arrived and laid down his cumbersome



pack on opening which he found his powder had broken loose from the paper and got thoroughly mixed with his meal and so compounded that they could not be separated. It would make poor ammunition, and the life of many a partridge and rabbit was saved by this accident, but still he concluded it would do for bread, and as for meat he could get some from the river, and sustained by his fortitude and industry he got along comfortably through the season. He returned to Watertown for several winters until he got ready for housekeeping, when he married Martha Morse, daughter of Joseph Morse.

The house which he built was burned about the year 1805, being then owned by the youngest son, Jonathan, and this is the only dwelling house I have ever known to have been burned in this town.

The place now owned by John McKinstry, as was also the land of Henry Plimpton, was first owned by Hezekiah Ward of Southborough, probably the same person formerly mentioned as being one of the first petitioners for the grant. William McKinstry, grandfather of John McKinstry, purchased of Mr. Ward, January 15, 1748. He was born in Ireland, Oct. 6, 1722, in 1741 enlisted on board a merchant vessel to sail from Liverpool to Boston, at 20 shillings per month, payable on his return, and 18 shillings advanced as bounty. He landed at Boston, Augst 15th, and not liking his service and the treatment he received from his captain, he resolved to remain in New England, and on the 25th of August followed a country's team out of the town, whence he proceeded to Medfield. He was suspected as a runaway and found no one to encourage him till he arrived at the house of William Plimpton, father of Gershom Plimpton before mentioned, who received him into his family, treated him kindly, and employed him to labor on his farm 7 years. The kindness and hospitality he received from Mr. Plimpton were gratefully remembered, and so often and particularly spoken of that all the circumstances have lived in the memory of his descendants who still participate in the feelings of their ancestor.

Mr. McKinstry at first lived for some years in a kind of log hut such as the young men of that time used for their dwellings

when they kept "Bachelor's hall." It was situated west of the road towards the brook, and he had for his companion Capt. Ralph Wheelock, who first began and cleared a few acres on the north part of the farm now owned by Henry Plimpton. Mr. Wheelock afterwards in March, 1758, sold to Gershom Plimpton, having January 24th, 1751, married the only daughter of James Dennison, being as before stated the first child born in the town. Mr. McKinstry was married to Mary Morse, daughter of Joseph Morse, January 30th, 1751, and died Nov. 12, 1795, aged 73.

As a specimen of agricultural experiments it may be mentioned that Mr. McKinstry and Mr. Wheelock thought it would be an improvement to their crop of corn, to manure the hills with dry leaves, but after waiting anxiously to witness the result in a rapid growth, they found it did not come up, as the term is, the leaves having rather strong anti-vegetating qualities. They of course were under the necessity of digging up the corn, taking out the leaves, and waiting till late in the season or until another year for an improved, or even an ordinary crop of corn.

Mr. Wheelock inherited a considerable portion of the land of Mr. Dennison. He was for many years treasurer of the town of Sturbridge. His life was extended far beyond those of his associates, the first settlers of the town. He had seen the acts of four generations, and was the last of his race. He died Dec. 28, 1822, at the age of 96, and at or near the place where his father in law Dennison had resided.

His first wife died Oct. 12, 1766, and he married Experience Cranny, Sept. 12, 1768. The number of his children was 15, and yet for so large a number, but few of them or their descendants are in this vicinity.

The place owned by Capt. Samuel Newell was first begun by Isaac Johnson, a mechanic, who bought one acre of Jonathan Perry. It afterwards was owned by different parties and Doctor James Woleott once lived there.

The farm of Peter Dugar was first settled by his father, Charles Dugar, who was a son of Daniel Dugar. The latter was a Frenchman, and came to this place from Nova Scotia in the time of the old French



war, not wishing to engage in the war, but remaining neutral. In those days it is said that very many foreigners who arrived in this country were in a habit of calling upon Col. Marey as a kind of patron and protector, he being of Irish descent. Daniel Dugar came with his family to Col. Marey's and lived in a part of his mill for several years. At the termination of hostilities between France and England, in which the latter acquired possession of Canada, the king made a grant of land to all the French who had been neutral during the war. Old Mr. Dugar, preferring the language and society of his own countrymen, returned to Canada with all his family except his son Charles, whom no entreaties, temptations, or threats could induce to return with the family; they even took all his wages he had earned during this season in working for Col. Cheney, and all his clothes excepting those he wore, hoping thereby to induce him to follow them; but he would not go. The fact was he had fallen in love with Miss Sarah Chubb, and as he expressed it, "I would not leave my Sarah for father, mother, brothers, and sisters"; and he did not. He was married to "his Sarah" May 14, 1767; and I have no doubt of the truth of this relation, or of his sincere affection for Miss Clmby; for at her funeral I saw the old man bend over her corpse, and for a long time weep and give utterance to his grief and lamentation.

While the family of old Mr. Dugar lived in Col. Marey's mills the lads and lassies of that day, the children of Mr. Marey, Mr. Truman, etc., used to have jolly times in visiting the family of the "old Frenchman" as he was called; and many a winter evening was passed off with such plays and amusements as were fashionable at that time; and the friendship then contracted was afterwards maintained between these families and Mr. Charles Dugar. One of the daughters of Col. Marey, wife of Gen. Newell, always continued her visits to Mr. Dugar's, in some of the earliest of which, to show the custom of those times compared with the luxury and refinement of the present day, it may be stated that she occasionally took a social drink with her old friend in the shell of a goose egg, instead of our double flint cut glass tumblers.

Mr. Dugar had to pay for his land the second time, the first title not being good—as was the case in many instances in Charlton; yet he by industry and perseverance acquired and paid for a good farm, and was respected and esteemed as a good neighbor, generous to the poor, and always a social companion.

I now pass to the village called Westville. That settlement was commenced sometime about or previous to 1738, at two places; one now owned by Tristram S. Wheelock, by Dea. Edward Foster. He was grandfather of the present Alpheus and Elias Foster—was one of the first deacons of the church in Sturbridge. He prepared the first water privilege at that place some distance above the present dam. He died Feb. 9, 1775. The other person was Daniel Plimpton, father of the late Capt. Elias and Lient. John Plimpton; and his house was at the place of the widow of Elias Plimpton. He died June 10, 1777.

The place of Capt. Abel Mason was begun by his grandfather, Jonathan Morse from Dedham, in 1738. I think a small beginning was made before by Mr. David Morse, as I find a deed from the latter to the former at that time, of land "with a dwelling house."

From a person who some years since had an interview with the late Capt. Abel Mason, Sen., for the purpose of making inquiries, I have the following facts:

When Mr. Jonathan Mason first came to the place bears, wolves and deer were numerous, and made depredations upon the flocks of cattle and sheep and fields of grain. The people were in the habit of attending meeting at all times when it was possible to go. Mr. Mason, and those in his neighborhood, had to travel 5 or 6 miles through the woods and ford the Quinebant in the summer; and they sometimes felled trees across to pass upon, which would remain until carried off by freshets. In winter the men of one neighborhood assembled early and by the aid of snow shoes, or rackets, beat a track—all going single file. The women and children would follow and mothers often carried young children in their arms. The farm of Dea. Jason Morse was commenced by Mr. Joseph Morse who came from Sherburn. He was



grandfather of the present Jason Morse.

The other first settlers in that part of the town were John Marsh, where Grosvenor Marsh resides; Samuel Ellis, at the place of Dwight S. Marey; Joshua Harding, at the farm of Ralph Harding; William Hatfield, at the place now owned by John Marsh; Joseph Mason, at Sylvanus Chamberlain's.

In other parts of the town the first inhabitants were Hinsdale Clarke, at Isaac A. Newell's; Moses Clarke, at Lemuel Clark's; Roland Clarke, at Joseph Clark's; Benjamin Dix, at the place now owned by Mr. Jackson, (but he bought after some improvements of John Pike); Ichabod Robbins began at the place of Moses Mason; Elijah Harding at the place of Lieut. Oliver Mason, and on the Parker Morse hill, Martin Spencer, Sen., was one of the first; Comfort Searle bought at the Baylies place after some improvements by Mr. Jackson.

At the east part of the town near the late Luther Ammidown's, Phillip Ammidown began about the year 1760, having moved there from another part near the Cheney farm. He was father of Caleb Ammidown, Esq., who died a few years before the parish was formed, and about the time the meeting house was built. Elisha Sabin began at the place of the late John Ammidown, now owned by Lewis Ammidown. He served in the French war.

At the south-east part of the town which, was settled at a later period than the other parts, the first inhabitants were Joseph Ammidown, father of the present Cyrus Ammidown, and brother of Caleb. He lived at the place formerly owned by Cyrus Ammidown, which he purchased nearly new in 1779. Jeremiah Morse, father of Alpheus Morse, began at the place now owned by Alpheus, in 1764; Ephraim Bacon began at the place of his late residence at about the same time; Henry Pratt at the place of Freeman Pratt; Dea. Daniel Morse, at his late residence; Joseph Barret, at the old house east of the road between Corbin Lyon's and Daniel Morse's—all these began new some years after. Asa Morse, father of Parker Morse, first began east of Daniel Morse's and afterwards moved to the place where he died, on the hill. James Dyer began at Corbin

Lyon's; Moses Marcy, grandson of the first settler, began at the Luther Smith place.

One of the first, and a very early inhabitant, was Col. Thomas Cheney, who began at a place near Larkin Ammidown's factory. He was a large land holder, a distinguished public man. He had no children, but brought up his nephew, the late Thomas Cheney, to whom he left a considerable part of his property. The place of the late Caleb Ammidown, on which his widow now lives, was commenced by Benjamin Stone.

The section near Elisha Morris's was formerly inhabited by negroes and was called New Guinea.

I have thus named most of the first settlers of this town, and with a few facts connected with the history of the two Mr. Fisks, I trust I shall be ready to close and relieve your patience.

Henry and Daniel Fiske first came from Watertown in 1731. The lot of Henry was drawn near Bookfield, but he did not like it, and purchased on the hill near the land of his brother, and towards the south end of the hill. While chopping on a still clear day he heard the sound of an axe to the south of him, not knowing of any person located in that direction, and the other person also heard his axe, being on the south side of the river; they both proceeded towards the sounds they had heard to the bank of the river, each fell a tree for a bridge, by means of which they met. The other person was James Dennison, and the acquaintance thus commenced was kept up by subsequent intercourse.

Henry and Daniel Fiske lived together near the house now owned by the Uphams on Fiske hill, and did their own cooking seven years. They went to Brookfield on Saturday night to get their washing done. They were very industrious, hard working men, and in order not to lose time in cooking they usually boiled a pot of beans at night which answered for their supper and breakfast, and probably, dinner. On one occasion a high wind blew a large stone from the top of the chimney which fell upon their pot of beans, and broke it in pieces, spilling the contents into the fire—deranging their regular meals for a



day or two.

When these men commenced they found two places at which were the remains of Indian corn hills; one near where they first built their huts, the other on the north side of the hill below Joshua Mason's. These were the only places where traces of Indian agriculture were found.

Henry Fiske was born in 1707, died 1790. They had sixteen children each; the only one of Henry's now living in this vicinity is Capt Simeon Fiske, from whom I have obtained many of the materials for this narrative. He is now 81 years old.

Daniel Fiske was born in 1709 and died in 1778 of the small pox, which he took while in Boston as a representative of Sturbridge. Of the children of Daniel Fiske there are now five daughters living—the oldest 78 and youngest 70 years of age, and all able to do a great proportion of the work in their families.

The facts which I have in a very long, and no doubt tiresome discourse, endeavored to lay before you, would furnish a

theme for much comment. I intended to lose with some reflection—comparing the past with the present and urging upon the gentlemen now in active life, the youth in particular, the importance of guarding against the thousand dangers incident to a growing and dense population, but this cannot be attempted. I will only thank you for the patience with which you have attended to my remarks, and ask pardon for the tax upon your time, and conclude by saying that if any information I have communicated shall be of any value in proportion to the time and trouble it has cost me in preparing it, I shall be satisfied.

NOTE 1852.—The foregoing was written under an appointment for a particular time, made and accepted without a due consideration of the labor and searching of records, etc., which would be required. The time being insufficient for the work, it is crude and imperfect in matter and arrangement and having been taken to Burlington, Vt., New York, Albany and other places for perusal by friends and relatives of my own and other names, among whom were G. W. Newell, Esq., Gov. Marcy etc., who kept it a long time. It has with it other deficiencies quite an antiquarian appearance.

M. P.



# APPENDIX.

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## SKETCH OF MR. PLIMPTON.

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Moses Plimpton was born in that part of turbridge, Mass., which subsequently became Southbridge. His parents were Ger-hom Plimpton and Keziah Plimpton, daughter of Deacon Daniel Fisk of Stur-ridge. He married Edna Taylor, daughter of John Taylor of Sturbridge, Nov. 22, 321. Seven children were born.

In his nineteenth year Mr. Plimpton taught a district school in the town of Mon-  
ton, and in the winters following in Charl-  
ton and Sturbridge. He was elected town  
clerk of Southbridge in 1820 and held the  
place for several years. He was also for  
any years a member of the school com-  
mittee. In politics he was a whig, and was  
quite active in the military service of the  
state. He was a member of a battalion of  
tillery, 1st brigade, 6th division; was  
made sergeant in 1821, commissioned lieu-  
tenant by Gov. Eustis, in 1823, and by Gov.  
Lincoln, promoted to the captaincy in 1829.

He was engaged a greater part of his life  
manufacturing and from 1821 until 1844  
was one of the proprietors of the Columbi-  
cotton mills, which in the latter year  
were destroyed by fire.

For some time after this he carried on  
the Westville mills, but left Southbridge in  
1849 and removed to Dracut and from there  
Somerville, having received a custom  
use appointment in July of that year.  
He resigned his situation upon the election  
Franklin Pierce to the presidency. He  
then resided on Tremont street in Boston.

His death was caused by injuries received  
from being violently knocked down while at-  
tempting to cross Washington street in  
Boston. He was taken to his home where

he died the following night, September 19,  
1854.

In addition to being a prominent citizen  
and leading manufacturer, Mr. Plimpton  
was a discriminating reader and was judi-  
cious in the selection of books; many that  
he has left in possession of his children are  
of that character which treat upon the prac-  
tical questions of the times rather than the  
lighter topics.

He was particularly well read in political  
economy and was a strong believer in a tar-  
iff for the protection of our home industry.  
Taking an active interest in whatever con-  
cerned the welfare of the community, he  
was one of the foremost in promoting the  
cause of temperance and he delivered lec-  
tures upon this as well as on other topics.  
He aided in establishing lyceums, as they  
were called in his day, and debating socie-  
ties and became a member of the Worcester  
Agricultural Society in 1839.

In Holmes Ammidown's Historical Col-  
lections we find the following:

"During a period of forty years, from  
his early manhood few, if any, ex-  
erted a greater or more beneficial influ-  
ence, in this town than he. To the cause  
of temperance, schools, lyceums and relig-  
ion, and in fact to all objects, the design  
of which was the elevation of the people  
and society about him, he gave his atten-  
tion and active support. Although not hav-  
ing the advantage of a collegiate education  
yet he may be properly called an educated  
man."

### CORRECTIONS.

In March, 1836, Mr. Plimpton delivered  
what he called "three lectures," before the



Southbridge Lyceum or Literary Association, the original manuscript of which was for along time considered lost, but which was finally found at the rooms of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, of which he became a member two years before his death. On its disc very a copy was made for the above named society and the original given to Mr. Plimpton's family. The type for the within reprint was set from the copy kindly loaned us by the Historical Genealogical Society.

After the conclusion of the work, through the courtesy of Manning Leonard, Esq., we were able to have the reprint compared with the original. This comparison disclosed the following errata. We are indebted to Holmes Ammidown for the engraving of Mr. Plimpton in this volume.

Page 4, col. 2, line 26, for gulf of Lawrence read gulf of St. Lawrence.

- " 5, col. 1, line 28, for legislation read legislature.
- " 5, col. 2, line 12, for Georges read Geoges.
- " 7, col. 1, line 1, for the others read another.
- " 7, col. 1, line 18, insert merged after soon.
- " 7, col. 1, line 19, for of Plymouth read at Plymonth.
- " 7, col. 2, line 4, for their charter read the charter.
- " 8, col. 1, line 16, for 1663 read 1653.
- " 8, col 1, line 34, for corporation read in corporation
- " 8, col. 2, line 29, for the incorporation read i's incorporation.
- " 9, col. 1, line 33, for chairmen read chainmen.
- " 9, col. 2, line 15, insert first before projectors.
- " 9, col. 2, line 28, for written read within.
- " 10, col. 1, line 49, for anything read anywaw.
- " 11, col. 1, line 12, for 1731 read 1738.
- " 11, col. 1, line 39, instead of Shinball Learned read Shinball Gorham, Thomas Learned.
- " 11, col. 1, line 40, add Samuel Ellis.
- " 11, col. 1, foot note, insert and after Daniel.
- Page 11, col. 2, line 4, for 1673 read 1723.
- " 11, col. 2, line 22, for Marriam read Mirriam.
- " 11, col. 2, line 28, comma after gr. father, and no paragraph. The sentence should end with the words centre of Southbridge in the line below.
- " 11, col. 2, foot note, line 5, for P. 234 read P. 236.
- " 12, col. 1, line 5, for D. Oliver read Doliver.
- " 12, col. 1, line 27, insert of between s. and Joseph.
- " 13, col. 2, line 49, for this town read the town.
- " 13, col. 2, line 51, for informed read informers
- " 14, col. 1, line 20, add after the word second, Similar law passed in Conn. 1639.
- " 14, col. 1, line 40, omit the.
- " 15, col. 1, line 16, omit for.
- " 16, col. 1, line 54 for into read unto.
- " 16, col. 1, line 48, for their read the.
- " 16, col. 2, line 4, omit same
- " 17, col. 2, line 31, insert therefore after matters.
- " 17, col. 1, line 48, transpose the and tax.
- " 18, col. 2, line 31, for burying grounds read the singular.
- " 19, col. 1, line 32, omit the first young
- " 19, col. 2, line 32, for Rubin read Reubin.
- " 20, col. 2, line 27, for representatives read the singular.
- " 21, col. 2, line 37, for measure read measures.
- " 22, col. 1, line 19, omit was.
- " 23, col. 1, line 2, for rules read resolvs.
- " 23, col. 1, line 26, for Robbing read Robbins.
- " 23, col. 1, line 42, for their read this.
- " 23, col. 2, line 1, insert to do after nothing.
- " 24, col. 1. After the name Capt. Henry Clark in the 23d line, a portion of the 28th and 29th pages should be inserted, beginning with the words "In 1787, December 3,"



etc., and ending with "and Joseph Shaw's."

Page 24, col. 1, line 53, insert quotation mark before 1st.

" 24, col. 2, line 29, insert quotation mark after mourners.

" 25, col. 1, line 4, for reparation read separation.

" 25, col. 2, line 16, for David read Daniel.

" 25, col. 2, line 48, for Ebenezer read Eleazer.

" 26, col. 1, line 39, after agreeable insert to the subjects of it, we might look forward.

" 26, col. 1, line 45, omit selves.

" 26, col. 2, line 8, for Paul Rick read Paul Rich.

" 27, col. 1, line 12, insert all before obstacles.

" 27, col. 1, line 31, for deserves read discovers.

" 28, col. 2, line 23, for Dugan read Dugar.

" 28, col. 2, line 24, for Dugan read Dugar.

" 28, col. 2, line 25, for Dugan read Dugar.

" 28, col. 2, line 33, should follow "Capt. Henry Clark," page 24.

" 29, col. 2, line 35, insert quotation mark before considerable.

" 31, col. 1, line 13, insert semicolon after Perry, and change were to was in the line below.

" 32, col. 1, line 23, visits should be singular.

" 32, col. 1, line 28, insert of five after committee.

" 33, col. 1, line 51, for 1852 read 1822.

" 33, col. 2, line 23, for one-sixth read one-sixteenth.

" 33, add to the foot note, "and it has for years been almost forgotten."

" 34, col. 1, line 2, insert after district

"called the Ammidown district."

Page 34, col. 2, line 22, for Furver read Turner.

" 34, col. 2, line 26, for Daniel Marten read David Martin.

" 35, col. 1, line 29, for Menger read Munger, after wrangling.

" 35, col. 2, line 37, Add "and the rash contention of demagogues."

" 36, col. 1, line 10, for Rev. Henry L. Lamb, read Rev. Henry J. Lamb.

" 37, col. 2, line 11, for death read deaths.

" 36, col. 2, line 13 for inhabitants read interments.

" 36, col. 2, line 38, insert he before commenced.

" 37, col. 1, line 41, for Zeba, read Ziba.

" 37, col. 1, line 43, insert was after it.

" 37, col. 2, line 17, for the read this.

" 37, col. 2, line 40, for ont read account.

" 37, col. 2, line 49, for Josiah L. Fiske, read Josiah J. Fiske.

Same line, for Frances read Francis.

" 38, col. 2, line 29, omit comma and add each after horses.

" 39, coll. 1, line 8, for association read plural.

" 39, col. 1, line 50, for I read P.

" 40, col. 2, line 12, for Sonthbridge, read Sturbridge.

" 40, col. 2, line 36, for this other son read the other son.

" 41, col. 2, line 46, for this read his.

" 42, col. 1, line 38, insert man's after country.

" 42, col. 2, line 19, insert "they accordingly planted their corn upon leaves."

" 42, col. 2, line 39, for Oct. 12, 1776 read Oct. 21, 1765.

" 43, col. 1, line 38, for Truman, read Freeman.

" 43, col. 2, line 34, for have read learn.

" 44, col. 2, line 34, for fell read felled.

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